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NAVY VOWS NEVER TO RENOUNCE BEAGLE RIGHTS

PY102243Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1604 GMT 10 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Feb--The Argentine Navy has said that the country could never renounce its right to the islands in the Beagle Channel, which were awarded to Chile by the arbitral decision declared null by Argentina. We have never fought to gain one meter of foreign territory, but we could never resign ourselves to losing what we have received as an inheritance along with our pride as a nation, according to an article in the navy's official publication GACETA MARINERA. The article was entitled "The Nullity of the Beagle Arbitral Decision." The article emphasized that Argentina maintains its desire for dialog as long as its good will is respected.

With regard to the arbitral decision rejected by the military junta on 25 January, the naval publication said it is full of errors, and that we still do not know whether they were intentional or just committed because of a gross ignorance of the facts by one of the parties.

Meanwhile, the Argentine Foreign Ministry was informed of the Chilean Government rejection of the protest against the designation of sea wardens in the disputed area. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday's Chilean note is being studied with appropriate seriousness and calm.

SPECIAL ENVOY TO CARRY DRAFT ACCORD TO PINOCHET

PY111731Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1538 GMT 11 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 11 Feb--An envoy from the Argentine military junta will go to Santiago tomorrow with the mission of reconciling the disagreements with Chile in the border dispute between the two countries, it was said today in circles close to the government. Brig Gen Basilio Lami Dozo, secretary general of the air force, will take with him the draft, worked out by the Argentine Government, of the document to be signed by Presidents Augusto Pinochet and Jorge Videla within the 2 next weeks, the sources said.

The draft will be compared with the text proposed by the Chilean Government, in order to establish a final text of the accord which will reportedly be signed by the presidents during the summit meeting, for which the date has not yet been fixed.

In case irreconcilable disagreements remain between the respective claims of sovereignty over the Beagle Channel region in the south, it is believed that a Chilean military mission may visit Buenos Aires next week to discuss conflicting points with Argentine officials.

Sources close to the government have said that the second meeting within a month between Presidents Videla and Pinochet might take place between 17 and 20 February, if the discussions lead to an agreement and the writing of a joint text.

Following the guidelines agreed upon during the presidents' meeting on 19 January at an Argentine airbase, they would establish rules for the functioning of a binational commission which would draw up a treaty within 6 months, and ultimately establish the limits of the respective jurisdictions in the entire south of the continent.

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 1637 GMT on 11 February 1978 reports from Punta Arenas, Chile, that Brig Gen Basilio Lami Dozo will be received by President Augusto Pinochet in a special audience in Punta Arenas tomorrow. General Lami Dozo is said to carry a personal letter from President Videla to President Pinochet.]

CRONICA ASSAILS CHILEAN PRESS ATTACKS ON ARGENTINA

PY1116Y6Y Buenos Aires CRONICA in Spanish 11 Feb 78 p 1 PY

[Editorial: "The Chilean Press Has Declared War on Us"]

[Text] Ever since the arbitration award became news the Chilean press has declared a private and unilateral war on us. After calling the undeniable Argentine decision to nullify the British arbitral award as "savage" and "unprecedented," they then continued with a treacherous campaign aimed at exposing the existence of disagreements in the Argentine Government junta. But that was not enough.

They have now launched new attacks in this real psychological war.

In several publications they made personal attacks against our officials, adding disrespectful cartoons in very poor taste. This attitude by the press reportedly has the tacit support of the Foreign Ministry, which in this manner is allegedly trying to prevent President Pinochet from carrying out his desire to reach an agreement.

AFP EXAMINES DISAGREEMENTS WITHIN MILITARY JUNTA

PY1C2142Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1247 GMT 10 Feb 78 PY

[By Victor Lapegna]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Feb--According to local observers, the worsening of the conflict with Chile over the southern borders has not lessened the conflict between opposing forces of the Argentine military government. Although a decision over the power structure and the appointment of a successor to replace Gen Jorge Rafael Videla as commander of the army has been postponed, the struggle between sectors of the armed forces continues with regard to this matter.

The leaders of the two main forces are, on one side, the president and commander of the army, Gen Jorge Videla, and his chief of staff, Gen Roberto Viola, and on the other side, the commander of the navy and member of the government junta, Adm Emilio Massera, and the commander of the powerful I Corps stationed in Buenos Aires, Gen Guillermo Suarez Masson.

Proof of the tensions between the two sectors are the recent army resolution ordering all retired officers to submit their public statements to the command for approval, and the closure of several publications.

The first to be punished by the military regulation--he was sentenced to 15 days of arrest--was retired Gen Acdel Vilas, who made harsh criticism of the current economic policies. [words indistinct] He is identified with Massera and Suarez Masson, and yesterday he received an ovation from the people in Tucuman, northeast of here, on the third anniversary of the military operation which he directed that eliminated a rural center for guerrillas of the Revolutionary People's Army (Marxist-Leninist).

Despite being under arrest, Vilas--who enjoys prestige because of that military action--was invited to take part in the ceremony. His criticism of the economic policies of Economy Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz is shared by spokesmen for Massera and Suarez Masson. They propose to replace that plan with another plan stimulating public and private investments in basic industries, reorganizing the internal market and fostering independent development of Argentina.

Videla and Viola support Martinez de Hoz in his idea that inflation is generated by high internal costs and must be contained by compressing the local market. To achieve this, he imposed the freezing of wages and at the same time rationalized the productive apparatus through its concentration.

In the political field, this sector states through its spokesmen that it wants a progressive incorporation of the center-right into a government which it intends to form based on former conservative leaders and unorthodox Peronist and radical sectors (the first and second political forces in Argentina, respectively).

Massera and Suarez Masson, their spokesmen told AFP, want an "agreement with the center left to prepare a transitional government of the center, conditioned to a military presence and linked to European social democracy and the Government of the United States." Massera is retiring in September, 1978, and his successor, it is said, has been named. The debate about who will be the next army commander after Videla's retirement is now beginning.

Generals Suarez Masson and Viola are the candidates for a position with more real power than Videla after a vote by the ten major generals in active duty. It is said that the position of those commanders [on the voting] will depend on the social situation.

A military spokesman told AFP that "if there is public unrest against the economic situation, this will benefit Suarez Masson, who opposes the current economic policies; if calm prevails, this will benefit Viola, who supports Martinez de Hoz."

In view of this, and knowing that February and March are the months during which social reactions may occur, the first group wants to postpone the decision until April and the second group wants to decide earlier.

In conclusion, President Carter's praise for the Argentine Navy attitude regarding human rights was repeatedly mentioned here. In this regard, it was mentioned that the recent beginning of publication of names of detainees is linked with the remarks made by the U.S. President.

MASSERA ON L.A. INTEGRATION, RELATIONS WITH BRAZIL

PA130219Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1610 GMT 12 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Brasilia, 12 Feb (LATIN)--According to Adm Emilio Massera, chief of the Argentine Navy and a member of his country's military junta, Brazil and Argentina are working to set an example of maturity necessary for regional integration. Massera made these statements, which were published in this capital's CORREIO BRASILIENSE today, to a journalist of Brazil's DIARIOS ASOCIADOS.

Massera denied that there are differences among the members of his country's ruling armed forces and warned against Latin America's two "enemies," which would have an interest in any clashes between the area's military governments.

"The Latin American nations have two types of enemies: those which seek to destroy us as countries organized on the basis of freedom and the dignity of man and those which seek to prevent our cultural and economic development so that we cannot become dangerous competitors," the Argentine official explained. According to the newspaper, Massera warned that "both of these enemies may have an interest in seeing the Latin American military governments clash."

In denying the existence of differences among the members of his country's military junta, Massera indicated that "here we have united, confident and developed armed forces, in which nobody moves ahead while others stay behind. If Argentina moves ahead, it is because we are all moving ahead in Argentina."

Commenting on Argentine-Brazilian bilateral relations, Massera noted that due to their "size and natural resources they have a greater responsibility regarding the future of Latin America." He explained that this does not conceal a veiled attitude of tutelage, but that on the contrary, "it is a matter of a greater historical obligation."

"I think the time has come to talk of regional destiny. In following that idea, Brazil and Argentina should set an example of maturity, which is essential for true integration. Naturally, this does not mean a loss of sovereignty or national identity," Massera affirmed. He then added: "I am sure that both Brazil and Argentina understand it this way and are working accordingly."

Massera then warned against confusing the expression of different views on routine events "with profound differences." "For both Brazil and Argentina the proper solution will always involve frank and good-willed conversations," he added.

Massera advocated regional integration, noting that "it should serve as the basis for a future community of Latin American nations" that would permit these countries to have access to world decisions. "We cannot resign ourselves to the role of frustrated satellites of alien imperialism," he commented.

Apparently referring to Latin America's nuclear energy problems, Massera noted that "technological development should have no other limit than that of its own potential."

HARGUINDEGUY VIEWS POLITICS, OTHER ISSUES

PY100230Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0110 GMT 10 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Feb--Interior Minister Gen Albano Eduardo Harguindeguy today stated that Argentinians do not want to open up political play. He said he was convinced that democracy is the only lifestyle where man can keep his most precious gift: liberty. He pointed out that we cannot, in the name of democracy, hand over the country to a party, be it the extreme right or leftwing, which would immediately implement a cruel totalitarianism. But, he added, we consider that democracy as we have known it during the last few years cannot lead the country toward progress, or satisfy the spiritual and material needs of its inhabitants.

In statements made to the monthly publication REDACCION, directed by Hugo Gambini (author of the article), General Harguindeguy explained that this is the reason we speak of a stronger, renewed and rejuvenated form of democracy. We emphasized: We believe in what we have called a new republic, which in reality will be a new democratic, representative and federal republic, totally different from the other one. But, he added, since it is different from the other one, the political parties which served the other one, with their same interval systems and structures, with their virtues and defects and platforms, will not serve for the new one.

He said that new political parties cannot be fabricated. He did not reject the possibility of some old political factions becoming reformed, renewed and, through an internal ideological transformation, capable of serving the new republic. He added: The parties as we knew them in 1973, with their platforms, electoral systems and government proposals, cannot be of use in the new republic.

He reaffirmed his belief in democracy and asked the journalist: Do you really believe in the democracy we were living in from 1973 to 1976? In view of the negative answer he said, if that's what you want we'll bring it back right away. What do you think?

Asked if the military was as responsible as the political parties for what happened in the country during the last 50 years, General Harguindeguy recalled the speech where he pointed out that all Argentines were responsible for what had happened. He said he was not being rough with political parties. The last few days, he said, I have used some rough expressions, because there are some who give us advice 2 years after they, with total ineptitude, had thrown the country into chaos.

I am referring to one sector, he explained. But there is another sector, the one which had been the opposition and which had agreed with the bases they were going to respect. Two years ago, its principal political figure was publicly confessing: I have no solutions for the country. That is written down in the newspapers. And you're going to start throwing stones now?

Asked if he was referring to Balbin, Harguindeguy answered: Yes, I am referring to Balbin, who said during a speech: I have no solutions for the country? And you're going to start throwing stones now?...Yes, he said he didn't have any.

However, he said, the government has to receive criticism from all sectors. We accepted the criticism of all citizens as such, but not as politicians, because political activity is suspended. He pointed out that there was no democracy between 1973 and 1976. The most unthinkable action of the government which came to power in 1973 was unanimously ratified by the nation's congress, when the interior minister prohibited the intervention of the armed forces in politics.

I am speaking about the armed forces. Of course, he added, they are constantly intervening as a power element. In speaking about military governments he added that Peron as well as Justo [Agustin Pedro Justo, president 1932-38] had come to power by electoral mandate. He insisted that it was not wise to free political activity because, he added, I do not think it will be good for the country. I do not think it would be good right now.

I accept political leaders, but on an individual basis and not as the representative of a party or party idea. I accept them because each one is worth something because of what he thinks and says. What is more, a politician could be in an official office today talking about the country's problems. What he does today, he did yesterday and a year ago.

That is why, he added, I believe that politics is inseparable from government. Politics is part of it, starting from the very day a government takes power, because it is the art of managing the country. Party politics is what is banned in Argentina.

Asked whether this meant that he had talked with political leaders, General Harguindeguy answered: I have talked with some of them. In my tours through the interior, I have met with former senators and deputies who make up the government teams. And I keep telling the governors that they have to look for men who are willing to cooperate in building the new Argentina; that they should not worry about what label they carry, a political label.

In other words, I am not excluding here the individual because of his political ideas. On the contrary, we must all participate. What we believe is that the time is not ripe for partisan political expressions.

Harguindeguy then mentioned the action of the armed forces to wipe out terrorist criminals, and he reasserted that the intensity of subversive violence has decreased, although there are still isolated actions. He maintained that if the choice had been terrorism of the right we would have had the same problem presented by the right. And the two, he emphasized, are equally dangerous for democracy. He added: Therefore, we must fight terrorism of the right with the same strength, dedication and firmness with which we fought terrorism of the left, because both are equally harmful to freedom.

Regarding the Timerman case, he said that it had been investigated by a military court, which determined that there was a group which undoubtedly had a connection with subversive entities. Some people involved because of their close connection were included in the act of institutional responsibility for the Jacob Timerman case. Timerman must now explain the origin of his assets and whether they are legally or illegally acquired.

After explaining that the participation of Martinez de Hoz in the regional meetings of governors was an Economy Ministry initiative, General Harguindeguy added: I even changed schedules of the meetings so that the economy minister could come with me, since because of his trips abroad he could not always come, and he considered this type of exchange very positive. Asked whether he was completely convinced of the worth of the economic plan, the interior minister stated: I am. Otherwise, I would hold a completely different position. It is my economic plan, since I am part of the government which supports this plan and which has adopted it.

He said that the economic plan can be and must be supported by everyone. He added: What is difficult is to distribute the cost of the burden. No economic plan which is based only on the effort of one sector of the people can be successful. I admit that at this time there are firms which are in a bad situation, and the financial cost is what must be felt the most. And why? Because they invested their gains someplace else.

Let us be frank: How many businessmen took their gains in these past years and reinvested them? And now they complain that they are going through difficult times. Did anyone sell his ranch to reinvest in his firm? Did anyone sell his business or his real estate to invest in his enterprise? No, no one did. That is why I repeat that the economic plan can be and must be supported by everyone, although it is difficult to make an even distribution of the effort, he concluded.

LECHIN SAYS PRIN WILL NOT SEEK COALITIONS

PY101734Y Sucre Radio La Plata in Spanish 1630 GMT 10 Feb 78 PY

[Text] The Revolutionary Party of the Nationalist Left [PRIN] is a unitary party and will therefore not seek any kind of coalitions, said Juan Lechin Oquendo, top leader of PRIN and the Bolivian Labor Central [COB], at a press conference. He also said that he is now making a study of the national economy in order to issue a statement soon.

Meanwhile, politician Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz has told the press that if there were fair play in politics, the opposition would win the next general elections. He emphasized that there are still no adequate rules for an honest democratic game because of the actions of the armed forces government. He also said that his socialist party will seek an alliance with center-left parties.

MNR FACTION BACKS RESURRECTION OF FRONT

PY102229Y Sucre La Plata in Spanish 1630 GMT 10 Feb 78 PY

[Text of undated communique issued by Chuquisaca Department leadership of the National Revolutionary Movement--MNR]

[Excerpts] During the latest meeting of the departmental command, also attended by the feminine departmental command and the regional youth command, and with the participation of the leaders of the provincial organizations, the report by the departmental leadership was read and fully approved after it had been clearly explained by Comrade (Joaquin Argandena Ortega). The report dealt with the full national unification of the party leadership on the basis of the 12th and latest national convention, under the leadership of Comrade Ruben Julio Castro.

The position taken by the MNR for the whole country was also approved regarding the active participation of the party in the reconstitution of the nationalist front, established in 1971, for the purpose of promoting the constitutionalization process of the country.

Regarding an article published in the newspaper PRESENCIA and signed by the priest Leonidas Sanchez and others, supposedly expelling the national MNR leaders from the party, it is clearly stated to party members that the article only has sensationalist aims and supports the personal position of a small and hysterical minority group, styling itself the national political committee.

Because of the circumstances stated above, the pseudo-organization serving the priest Sanchez as a personal sounding-board was repudiated and reproached at the national meeting of departmental command leaders, held in Cochabamba in December 1977, and also at the broader La Paz meeting in January 1978. Who, then, expells whom?

Active party members should be clearly aware of the absurd, abritrary and ridiculous attitude taken by the priest Sanchez, who has only been able to form a few feeble parallel departmental commands and tries to build up a personal party machine by sensationalist stances, such as the alleged expulsion of all national MNR leaders.

MOTIVES BEHIND CHANGE OF U.S. AMBASSADORS DISCUSSED

FY1100031Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Feb 78 p 5 FY

[Excerpts] Brasilia--The White House in Washington and Itamaraty in Brasilia announced yesterday that Robert Marion Sayre--a 53-year-old diplomat who is now inspector general of the U.S. Foreign Service--was designated the new U.S. ambassador to Brazil. He will replace John Hugh Crimmins, who is retiring.

The new ambassador should arrive in Brazil at the beginning of March, leaving him little time to prepare for President Carter's visit, which is officially scheduled for the end of March. The report caused much surprise in Brasilia's diplomatic circles because custom concerning presidential visits would indicate Crimmins, ambassador in Brazil for 4 and 1/2 years, as the appropriate person to receive Carter in view of the difficult relations between the two countries.

But this interpretation is not in agreement with Ambassador Crimmins himself, who said he had especially recommended to the State Department that Sayre be in Brazil for Carter's visit. "I believe it is an excellent opportunity to begin, and Sayre is a man with much experience in Latin American affairs, since he has served as ambassador in Uruguay and Panama."

The truth is that Robert Sayre himself, who will have 2 weeks to get accustomed to Brazil, will be able to offer little guidance to Carter, since he will still not have reliable contacts in the Brazilian Government. The embassy itself commented that the idea of allowing Crimmins to retire before Carter's visit caused quite a bit of dispute in the State Department. Many diplomats argued that his presence in Brazil was essential to advise the president.

Diplomatic circles believe that the hardening of U.S. policy toward Brazil is the reason for the abrupt change of ambassador. Carter would like to have his hands free while visiting the country, and be without the uncomfortable presence of one of the architects of the Kissinger-Silveira "memorandum of understanding" which marked the golden era of Brazilian-United States relations on the basis of equality, at least on paper.

This theory makes sense when one considers that if Carter wanted important advice for his negotiations with Brazil, he would not have dispensed with an able ambassador experienced in Brazilian affairs with good connections in various sectors of U.S. Government. Instead of retiring at the end of February as is planned, Crimmins could retire at the end of March, after Carter's departure.

Embassy sources observed that "relations between the two countries have had some pretty difficult moments because of human rights and nuclear policy. However, for 5 months now everything has been calm." The truth is that the calm is the result of President Carter's decision to deal with the Brazilian-FRG nuclear agreement personally. He imagines it will be easier to obtain his goals in direct and confidential talks, thus abandoning his policy of open diplomacy, which has already proven to be a failure with Brazil.

But what does Carter want from Brazil? He wants to get the exact same compromise he got from Giscard on the French-Pakistani nuclear agreement issue. That is, the plans for the reprocessing plant to be sold by the French should wait for U.S. technology to progress and find alternatives for the use of plutonium which would be less dangerous than present techniques. [paragraph continues]

The United States fears that countries like Brazil and Pakistan, with possession of the technology and a plant necessary for reprocessing materials now used in nuclear reactors, will decide to develop atomic bombs.

DISPUTE ARISES OVER FRG REACTOR SURCHARGE

PY101512Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 9 Feb 78 p 5 PY

[By William Waack]

[Text] Bonn--The amount which Brazil does not want to pay the FRG totals DM 600 million (some $250 million). This refers to the DM3.4 billion premium guarantee [premios da garantia] paid by the Bonn government as an official guarantee for the purchase by Brazil of two nuclear reactors from the Kraftwerk Union in July 1976. So far, despite the intensive exchange of letters between NUCLEBRAS President Paulo Nogueira Batista and Detlev Rohwedder, secretary of the FRG Economy Ministry, no agreement has been reached. And this subject must be discussed during Geisel's visit to Germany next month.

The Germans have already said that they will not give up their claim. From Argentina to Iran, all countries to which the FRG Government granted official guarantees have agreed to pay high premiums--a surcharge which FRG companies include in their prices to clients. Batista argues that the large amount of transactions between Brazil and the FRG should exempt Brazil from paying these surcharges, but to really succeed in getting this exemption it would be necessary to have the approval of the FRG parliament.

It happens that the granting of official guarantees--called "Hermes guarantees" because of the name of the insurance company which issues them--have become a political weapon in the FRG capital.

This is one of the main devices with which the government protects export negotiations, and to the indignation of large sectors of the Social Democratic Party, it was revealed recently that the official guarantees offered in transactions with South Africa (Bonn has officially advised FRG investors to avoid this country) have been higher than those offered to all other countries. Other countries which have agreed to the "Hermes guarantees" are Saudi Arabia, Iran and the Soviet Union.

These guarantees are designed to cover the risks of the FRG investor: If the client does not pay, then the government is forced to do so. The latest concession of guarantees has caused new debates: Bonn paid DM452 million to cover the sale of technology for the construction of submarines to the Argentine Government.

NUCLEBRAS Reaction to Surcharge

PY102330Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 10 Feb 78 p 6 PY

[Official note released by the Brazilian Nuclear Corporations, NUCLEBRAS, on 9 February]

[Text] Regarding a report released today, 9 February, by a Sao Paulo newspaper based on a report filed by its correspondent in Bonn, on a $250-million debt Brazil allegedly has with the FRG pursuant to transactions stemming from the nuclear agreement signed between the two countries, NUCLEBRAS wants to make clear that:

1. There is no FRG demand and, ipso facto, there is no Brazilian refusal to pay this amount concerning premiums for official guarantees provided by the FRG Government for the sale of two Kraptwerk Union nuclear reactors to Brazil.

2. Any sale of equipment of leading exporting countries, whenever this sale is no credit, must be covered by export credit insurance. The Hermes Organization takes care of this type of coverage in the FRG through premiums which are incorporated in the sale price of the exported equipment. Consequently, the premium in question will only be due when the appropriate installments are due;

3. The negotiations held between the NUCLEBRAS president and the secretary of state of the FRG Economics Ministry regarding possible exemption from payment of these premiums, which stem from transactions carried out under the FRG-Brazilian nuclear agreement, are normal commercial talks designed to reduce costs and can in no way be considered nonfulfillment of contractual obligations, which have not yet become due.

TRADE WITH FRG SURVEYED BEFORE GEISEL TRIP

PY102303Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 9 Feb 78 p 5 PY

[By correspondent William Waack]

[Summary] Bonn--When President Ernesto Geisel visits the FRG this March, he personally will not hold extensive talks on economic matters aimed at the signing of an all-encompassing agreement. Brazilian and German experts will take up the problems which are normal even in such very good economic relations.

The Brazilians are interested in getting Germany to use its influence to open the EEC to Brazilian manufactured goods. In turn, the Germans are interested in discussing new possibilities for German firms in the Brazilian financial market, particularly to assist small and medium-sized investors. "With the exception of the problem of payment of the guarantee for official credits, the nuclear agreement will not be included in the agenda, which only includes the transfer of industrial technology involving the law on Brazilian patents."

Criticism of the FRG's protectionist import policy by Industry and Commerce Minister Calmon de Sa last year ellicited a comment from the secretary of the German Economy Ministry, Detlev Rohwedder, that the FRG understands the discontent of trade partners like Brazil, but that it should be remembered that tne FRG cannot depart from a policy laid down by the EEC, of which the FRG is a member. Other sources at the same ministry said that, since the FRG essentially depends on foreign trade, it is not interested in a world with too many custom barriers. As an example they cited the slight liberalization of the EEC textile import quota for Brazil as a result of efforts exerted by the FRG.

A monthly bulletin of the Foreign Trade Information Center shows that Brazil really does not have much reason to complain, since Germany is currently carrying a DM238-million deficit in its trade with Brazil. In the first half of 1977 Brazil exported approximately DM1.3 billion worth of raw material and goods, while importing German products worth DM1.07 billion. These figures represent a 32.2-percent increase in Brazilian exports to Germany and a 16.9-percent decrease in German exports. In view of these figures, the Germans ask how anybody can accuse the FRG of protectionism.

Brazilian exports to the FRG are mostly coffee and iron ore, which constitute practically half of the total, followed at a distance by soybean meal and Volkswagen car parts, each representing 6.4 percent of the total, fruit juice (4.8 percent), cotton fabrics (3.6 percent), and canned vegetables (3.4 percent). In turn, the FRG exports to Brazil transport and mining equipment (36.5 percent), electrical goods (12.4 percent), raw chemicals (6.5 percent), vehicles (6 percent), pharmaceutical and chemcial products,

This is the first time over the last 5 years that the FRG has run a deficit a significant fact since in 1974 the FRG posted a DM1.8-billion surplus on sales of DM3.8 billion. Since that year, however, its exports have been declining, to less than half the 1974 figure last year, while Brazilian exports to that country have been climbing from DM1.9 billion in 1973 to DM2.4 billion in 1976 and DM1.3 billion just in the first half of 1977.

The United States is Brazil's greatest buyer with 18.2 of our exports, then comes the FRG with 9.1 percent. The Germans buy from Brazil one-third more than the Japanese and almost as much as the LAFTA countries. The flow of German capital into Brazil has not stopped. In 1976 it rose by 28.3 percent over the previous year. This was greater than the capital flow increase from the United States and Japan, although smaller than that from Switzerland (33 percent). The FRG is Brazil's second largest supplier of capital, $1,118,000,000 representing 12 percent of the total foreign capital inflow, and the United States continues to be first, with $2.9 billion representing 32 percent.

CHURCH REACTS TO RESTRICTIONS ON EXILES

PY092115Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1735 GMT 9 Feb 78 PY

[By Juan Javier Zeballos]

[Excerpts] Brasilia, 9 Feb--The Catholic Church was profoundly moved by reports from the Justice and Peace Commission that there are almost 10,000 Brazilians, mostly abroad, who are treated as expatriates by the government.

Dalmo Dallari, president of the Justice and Peace Commission, in statements to the press said the Commission will begin a campaign to inform the public about the situation of almost 10,000 Brazilians considered "politically undesirable" and treated as "expatriates" by the government.

Itabari Bishop Monsignor Mariz Texeira Gurgel said in Belo Horizonte that the government should recognize the rights of persons who are exiled or who have been found guilty of political crimes, through a "national pacification" agreement with a broader interpretation than just amnesty. The archbishop of Uberaba, Monsignor Jose Pedro Costa, said the Justice and Peace Commission's report "may result in an amnesty, but it should be arrived at with respect for authority." Monsignor Costa added that "to plead for amnesty is not a crime, especially now that the government is talking about the country's democratization."

The president of the Justice and Peace Commission said that Brazilians should know that uncounted compatriots "are living in a humiliating and sometimes seriously dramatic situation because the Brazilian Government violates the law and denies them their papers." Cardinal Paulo Evaristaarns recalled that he had been informed of the existence of 3,000 Brazilians in that situation when he was in Europe.

The Foreign Ministry denied Dallari's report that Brazilian embassies and consulates have a list distributed by Itamaraty containing the names of allegedly undesireable persons who could not have their documents revalidated or passports renewed.

The Dallari report brought to light the complicated issue of political amnesty demanded by some of the country's representative sectors, a demand largely ignored by government representatives, who are more inclined toward a revision of the so-called revolutionary sanctions. With respect to this, Cardinal Arns said "when a sentence is the result of injustice, then amnesty becomes a right."

PINOCHET, ARGENTINE ENVOY HOLD CLOSED-DOOR MEETING

PA1312O1Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0159 GMT 13 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Punta Arenas, Chile, 12 Feb (AFP)--Brig Basilio Lami Dozo, secretary general of the Argentine Air Force, returned tonight to Buenos Aires after delivering to Chilean President Gen Augusto Pinochet a message from his Argentine counterpart Jorge Rafael Videla. Lami told the Chilean press that it had been "a positive meeting." Regarding the possibility of a meeting between the two presidents he answered: "Your president will decide that."

Brigadier Lami had arrived in this southern city located 2,300 km south of Santiago at 1700 (2000 GMT). Some 90 minutes later he was received in a special audience at the local intendance by President Pinochet. The meeting, held behind closed doors, was attended by Miguel Barros, an arbitration agent and Chile's ambassador to the Netherlands, who arrived from Santiago at 1830. The conversation lasted 2 hours, which prompted a wave of speculation among the local press that apparently some agreement on the issues examined had been reached, thus making it possible to hold the much awaited second meeting between the two heads of state. This second meeting is to take place on Chilean territory. The Chilean Government, nonetheless, has declined to make any official statements regarding what was discussed at the meeting.

Pinochet-Videla Phone Talk

PY101826Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 10 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpt] The telephone conversation between the Chilean and Argentine presidents has been confirmed. This conversation took place last week before President Augusto Pinochet's trip to the south of the country.

PINOCHET: WAR WITH ARGENTINA WOULD BE MADNESS

PY101652Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0220 GMT 10 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpt] Punta Arenas, Chile, 9 Feb--Chilean President Augusto Pinochet said here tonight that the possibility of an armed conflict with Argentina because of the Beagle Channel dispute would be "madness." The president stated that "we believe in the justice of the law, because that is the common road which civilization tells us to follow." The president made these remarks in a public speech in Punta Arenas, the southernmost city in Chile, situated 2,300 km south of Santiago and near the zone of the Beagle Channel dispute.

General Pinochet said: "I also reassert today my conviction that the maritime problems which have arisen with our brother nation, the Republic of Argentina, because of her Britannic majesty's arbitration decision, will have a solution in accordance with the traditional bonds of friendship and fraternity which we have developed over so many years. He then added that he was convinced "that we will not fall into the situation, which is apparently sought by some feverish-minded people, in which the two peoples reach extreme situations." President Pinochet said that "this would be a madness with incalculable results, and the blood which would be shed would cloud the relations between the two states for many generations.

I do not say this out of fear or apprehension, since I believe I have shown the opposite to my countrymen. I say it because I feel that wisdom and calmness should guide every responsible ruler who wishes the best for his nation." He continued: "Any aggressive attitude, for which some people are clamoring instead of showing a calm judgment, only betrays fear and cowardice which would not be worthy of the Chilean people who have a honorable and peaceful tradition."

GENERAL LEIGH STRESSES READINESS OF AIR FORCE

PY111802Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1716 GMT 11 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 11 Feb--Gen Gustavo Leigh, commander of the air force and member of the government junta, said here today that the Chilean Air Force is always alert and in excellent condition to defend the country's sovereignty. The high military official made these remarks during the 65th anniversary of the Captain Avalos Aviation School which is made up of officers of the air force. He said that the Chilean Air Force, "materially, morally and physically is currently in optimum condition; it is excellent and it is an alert and alive institution." With regard to the conflict with Argentina over the Beagle Channel, he said that the public must remain at ease and calm and that he is convinced that "a positive agreement will be reached with the Argentine Government." He said: "We are two neighboring countries of a long and traditional brotherhood and friendship and I do not believe we can break apart when we have between us a treaty and an agreement which have been decided by an international court." He added: "I am sure Chile and Argentina will come to an understanding and agreement."

General Leigh assigned little importance to the statements made by the chief of Argentine naval aviation, according to whom that force is ready to go into action at any moment. He said: "They have a right to make the maneuvers they believe to be suitable in their own waters. When they say that they are ready and willing to defend their sovereignty, it is a natural thing. This is the way it has to be; the armed forces have to be ready for action. We are also ready." He also repeated his appeal to the Chilean public to maintain their calmness and tranquillity, because Chile "has right on its side and as long as we are supported by right and justice, we have nothing to fear."

GOVERNMENT DEFENDS 'TRANSFER' OF PDC LEADERS

PY102237Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1418 GMT 10 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, 10 Feb--The Chilean Government made clear today that the 12 leaders of the dissolved Christian Democrat Party [PDC] had been "transferred" and not confined to the northern part of the country. In an official declaration, it also rejected the "international campaign sponsored, among others, by the World Christian Democrat Union and related entities," which are seeking to present the transfer of the politicians to the city of Arica, located 2,038 km north of Santiago, as "an arbitrary measure which violates human rights." The declaration adds: "This was a transfer of persons from one province to another ordered by the president of the republic pursuant to the special powers bestowed upon him by the constitution under the state of siege." It adds that this transfer cannot be regarded as confinement, since this is a punishment applied to common crimes. The transfer of the leaders to the north was ordered by the government in January after they were charged with having violated the political recess which has been in force in the country since 1973.

OFFICIAL REFERENDUM RESULTS RELEASED

PA101413Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1216 GMT 10 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpts] Quito, 9 Feb (EFE)--The final results of the 15 January referendum in Ecuador today confirmed the new constitution's unequivocal victory.

The final vote count released this morning by the Supreme Referendum Tribunal gave the following returns:

Voters: 1,811,840 [figure as received]

Voters for the new constitution: 778,611 (43 percent)

Votes for the amended 1945 constitution: 582,556 (23 percent)

Null votes: 421,510 (23 percent)

Blank votes: 28,963 (2 percent).

FOREIGN MINISTER ESTABLISHES POSITION ON AMAZON REGION

PA101456Y Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 0015 GMT 10 Feb 78 PA

[Speech by Ecuadorean Foreign Minister Jose Ayala Lasso on behalf of the Supreme Council of Government at Legislative Palace in Quito on occasion of swearing-in of the Ecuadorean Amazon Region, attended by the members of the Supreme Council of Government--live]

[Excerpts] Generals, admirals and high-ranking officers of the armed forces, ambassadors and representatives of friendly countries, provincial precepts, mayors, governors, under secretaries of state, civilian, military, police and ecclesiastical authorities, ladies and gentlemen:

I am grateful for the privilege that the distinguished members of the Supreme Council of Government have accorded in allowing me to represent the council and to inaugurate the National Institute of Colonization of the Ecuadorean Amazon Region [Instituto Nacional de Colonizacion de la Region Amazonica Ecuatoriana--INCRAE], an organization that unquestionably will be of great importance to the country.

This is not the first time that Ecuador has made an important effort to foster better integration of our Amazon region into the country's active life. However, the work that is being initiated today has a very important but different significance and scope. This is not just one more of those efforts of the past aimed at strengthening our presence in the region. It is also not just another project to take advantage of the fertility of the area and to exploit its wealth.

We have passed the stage when we had to struggle painfully to penetrate the jungle with the best of intentions but without resources. Now, having a new attitude, we believe that the effort to truly integrate Ecuador's eastern area must take for granted the establishment of strong institutions designed to work continuously on the job of planning and implementing important long-term projects.

The entire Amazon region comprises approximately 8 million square km and it has great potential wealth, although it is developed only slightly. It includes Ecuadorean territory as well as the territory of seven other Latin American countries. Each country has exclusive responsibility for the progress of the Amazon region within its territory. However, regional unity, the physical obstacles and the problem of definition call for united efforts--without renouncing individual responsibilities--and for cooperation and interdependence are the essential characteristics and reasons for today's international laws.

Everyone is aware of how important cooperation is for us in all fields, including colonization. It is up to the Foreign Ministry to properly direct an Amazon policy of cooperation. To this effect, my ministry, for example, supports the actions of the Ecuadorean-Colombian Amazon Region Mixed Commission and looks at the Brazilian initiative for the signing of an Amazon region treaty with great interest and satisfaction. My ministry will support this initiative and provide ideas and advice because it considers the project a suitable basis for the creation of a means to facilitate the progress of our Amazon and the defense of our interests. It also will allow us to prevent the absurd internationalization projects that some industrial powers pretend are designed to stop, belatedly, the unjustifiable harm they have done to the ecology.

The basic goal of our Amazon policy is the attainment of an equilibrium in the region. This equilibrium can be attained only through the presence of the river that serves as the distribution system for the region in the country that is most entitled to it; Ecuador, which is now in fact isolated from the Amazon River and also in fact limited in its eastern region to the use of tributaries that, like amputated arms, cannot fully perform the function of development and communication.

This situation is related to another very important aspect of the Foreign Ministry's activity in Ecuador's eastern region: sovereignty. This relates to the most serious and enduring of our national problems: the territorial problem with Peru. This is like an open wound in the heart of Ecuadoreans. An illustrious chief of state from a noble and friendly country recently referred to this situation very fittingly as Ecuador's Amazon matter, which emphasizes Ecuador's sovereign presence in the Amazon, a presence that by right is ours.

As in any matter involving sovereignty, this is a vital matter. For Ecuador, however, it is extremely vital because of its magnitude and scope. No aspect of our situation as a neighbor can be divorced from this problem, including the integration aspect in which we have placed so many hopes, because, as the illustrious chief of state noted, the differences that still create doubts and foster resentment between our fatherlands are real and pose genuine threats to the success of the grand effort to carry out integration in Latin America.

In dedicating INCRAE, we do so with full knowledge that it is directed at the development of our eastern region. Any plan, any action in the economic, social or political field in our Amazon region will be directed at the defense and strengthening of our sovereignty. The country's foreign policy has always been directed toward that objective.

In an environment of understanding, the governments of Ecuador and Peru have taken preliminary steps in a dialog to find formulas for the definite solution of the territorial issue that divides us. Ecuador is hoping for the day when a permanent solution of the territorial problem with Peru will allow for the best type of cooperation between the two countries, which aside from this issue are united by ties of mutual benefit that make possible the closest relations. However, that definite solution will not be found except on just terms. Actions by which it was sought to maintain unjust situations rejected by the Ecuadorean people must be overcome.

The solution must be realistic and must recognize the essential and unrenounceable rights of Ecuador in the Amazon River. In that way, the two sister nations will have opened a broad path of cooperation without misgivings, of friendship without fears and of rapprochement without problems. A dialog inspired on these grounds will always find in Ecuador the best attitude.

I hereby inagurate the National Institute of Colonization of the Ecuadorean Amazon Region, and in so doing I evoke at this time so close to the anniversary of the discovery of the San Francisco de Quito River, that feat that began a colonization effort without parallel in America. The vast lands of the Amazon region will be generous to all those Ecuadoreans who with determination and patriotic fervor will transform potential into specific achievements. This institute has been given new and positive encouragement to that task.

I trust that the day is not far off when in justifying these efforts, the great eastern region of the fatherland will become a new source of national achievements, that it reaffirms the Ecuadorean presence in that area, and that it may contribute to create fraternal feelings among all the countries that share the Amazon goal. In that way, united by the same ideal, the Amazon countries will be able to put all the resources in the Amazon at the service of the development and aggrandizement of their people. Thank you very much. [applause]

POPULIST LEADER CLAIMS POLITICAL BIAS, LODGES PROTEST

PA101423Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2130 GMT 9 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpts] Quito, 9 Feb (AFP)--Asaad Bucaram, Ecuadorean populist leader and presidential candidate, today accused the authorities of placing his fellow party followers in the category of "outlaws" and asked the Supreme Referendum Tribunal to intervene.

In a communique published in Guayaquil's EL UNIVERSO, Bucaram accused the police intendant of Guayas Province of trying to impose "a climate of terror and partiality." "One can clearly see who stands to benefit from this campaign, which harms only the people," he said. The populist leader added that "we speak of partiality because all other political sectors are allowed to exercise their rights to hold political events, whereas we are flatly branded as outlaws."

The communique stresses that whereas "the mass communications media daily report on assemblies, meetings and marches held by the other parties," any time the CFP tries to do the same "what finds is threats, clubs, persecution and jail."

Guayas police intendant Jaime Vernaza was accused by Bucaram of having prevented the holding of a mass rally of CFP militants on 4 February. The politician said that "police patrols, in a veritable manhunt, went through suburban districts disbanding our groups, beating our militants and threatening them."

VELASQUISTS NOMINATE VELASCO IBARRA FOR PRESIDENT

PA111457Y Quito Radio Cadena Nacional Ecuatoriana in Spanish 1300 GMT 11 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Guayaquil--The Velasquist Convention last night decided to nominate Dr Jose Maria Velasco Ibarra as the presidential candidate of the National Velasquist Party. It decided to send a party delegation to Buenos Aires in the next few days to notify the former president of this decision and to ask him to accept the nomination.

Upon accepting the post of national director of the Velasquist Party, Dr Juan Carlos (Maituti) said that he is a disciplined party man and that the party has to convince Dr Velasco Ibarra to accept the nomination. He added amid cheers and applause that the Velasquists have the obligation of looking for a balcony in every town to offer it to Dr Velasco Ibarra so that once again he will wear the presidential sash.

The nomination of the former president was made despite the fact that Dr Velasco Ibarra has repeatedly said that he has retired from active political life. Therefore it is uncertain whether he will agree to participate once again in an electoral campaign.

Velasco Ibarra Refuses Nomination

PA122354Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1338 GMT 12 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Feb (EFE)--Former Ecuadorean President Jose Velasco Ibarra said here today he will not be a candidate in his country's upcoming elections.

The veteran political leader, who will be 85 this year, said nobody should take part in the "ignominy" of the elections scheduled for 16 July of this year. "Today, there can be no legal, constitutional or democratic elections because Ecuador has no constitution," Velasco Ibarra declared.

The former chief of state, who has lived in Buenos Aires since 1970, the year he was deposed, said in statements published by CLARIN today that this is the first time in Ecuador that "a dictatorship leaves without convoking a constituent congress."

Reports from Guayaquil, Ecuador, yesterday indicated that Velasco was proclaimed presidential candidate by his party's convention.

Velasco Ibarra pointed out that "to the constant electoral frauds that the country has endured," another one is added today: "A pamphlet that is supposed to represent the constitution--one of the two options submitted to the recently held illegal referendum." The seasoned politician defined the process as "an imitation of democracy" and accused former President Galo Plaza of supporting "institutionalization through fraud."

Velasco Ibarra asked Ecuadoreans not to nominate him as a candidate and urged them "to carryout a purifying revolution in the country." He explained that his destiny is to remain in Buenos Aires "until death decides otherwise." He added that "Ecuador needs a great young revolutionary" and that history has shown that such a leader "appears when most needed."

Velasco Ibarra defined himself as a "justice-loving social liberal" and said "that one must know how to reach the people and their instinct for life."

Finally, he said that if he were to travel to Ecuador he "would expose himself to ridicule and Ecuador to frustration."

COMMENTARY, REACTION TO NATIONAL ELECTIONS

Calm Reported Before Elections

PA121609Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1405 GMT 12 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Asuncion, 12 Feb (LATIN)--Small queues began forming here today at voting places at the beginning of the presidential and legislative elections. Gen Alfredo Stroessner, the incumbent president, is expected to win the elections for a sixth term as head of the Paraguayan Government.

The 65-year-old president voted at 0800 at a precinct located in the yard of a private school. Approximately 100 persons applauded the president when he arrived dressed in a dark suit. After voting, Stroessner shook hands with those wishing to greet him and talked to newsmen. "I have already cast my vote, hoping that the Colorado Party will win for the happiness of the nation," he said.

The president's party has a two-thirds majority in the bicameral national congress and is expected to retain this majority in today's elections. The opposition to General Stroessner has been hampered by authoritarian measures and a permanent state of seige. The two opposition groups--the Radical Liberals and the Liberals--nominated candidates, but are expected to garner only a small number of votes.

Asuncion was calm when voting started under a warm and brilliant sun. Voting is mandatory for all Paraguayans over 18 years of age. Interior Minister Sabino Montanaro, who accompanied Stroessner to his voting place, said that blank votes will be considered null. "There is no such a thing as a blank party," he said.

Stroessner Proclaims Resounding Victory

PA130319Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0149 GMT 13 Feb 78 PA

[By Alejandro Escobar]

[Text] Asuncion, 12 Feb (AFP)--Gen Alfredo Stroessner, a member of the Colorado Party, tonight gained a resounding victory in the elections held today in Paraguay for the 1978-1983 term. In a message to the nation broadcast tonight on radio and television, Stroessner proclaimed his "resounding and memorable victory" at the polls over two opposition presidential candidates.

It was expected that Stroessner's electoral victory, which all local and foreign observers had taken for granted, will mean for Paraguay the continuation of an era of internal stability and economic development virtually unprecedented in this country. "Because we are men with unswerving faith in democracy," Stroessner said, "we are honored once again to see the people, the repository of sovereignty, play their exalted role in these elections which are open to all legally recognized parties and in which there were no obstacles to political freedom."

"We are proud that these elections have taken place just as we expected, that is, in an atmosphere of normality and in a climate of broad guarantees for all citizens who have the freedom to exercise the right to vote as established by the basic tenets of representative democracy," Stroessner added.

He also said that the entire Paraguayan nation has witnessed "the exemplary maturity" with which the Colorado Party, to which he belongs, "has raised its banner of hope, and under it has enthusiastically maintained its doctrine of peace, concord and progress." The president noted that "after the Colorado Party's overwhelming victory, the republic now contemplates an even brighter future.

Stroessner, who has been in power for over 23 years, will begin his sixth consecutive presidential term (1978-83) on 15 August. He said that his party's peaceful revolution and what he described as the armed forces' unswerving loyalty, will continue to lead the Paraguayan Government during the next 5 years. Speaking as president-elect, President Stroessner thanked the Paraguayan people for their trust and overwhelming support at the polls.

Results Published

PY1314102 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 13 Feb 78 p 10 PY

[TEXT] THE COLORADO PARTY (THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN ASSOCIATION) WON YESTERDAY BY AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY AND ELECTED THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, GEN ALFREDO STROESSNER, TO THE 1978-1983 TERM. THE LIBERAL RADICAL OBTAINED SECOND PLACE, WHILE THE LIBERALS TOOK THIRD PLACE. A total of 993,547 voters participated; 890,361 of these voted for the Colorado Party (more than 85 percent). The RADICAL LIBERALS were in second place (no figures), followed by the Liberals (no figures). Figures for these two groups were not disclosed.

It is estimated that 82 percent of the electorate voted, giving an indication of the civic maturity of the Paraguayan people. Three percent of the ballots were anulled and the remaining votes were divided between the two minority parties. These figures (although unofficial) indicate the clear victory of the Colorado forces over the opposition.

Here are some of the results registered during yesterday's general elections in some parts of the country's interior: Benjamin Aceval: Colorados, 2,261; Radical Liberals, 198; Liberals, 103. Caacupe: Colorados, 6,855; Radical Liberals, 578; Liberals, 195. Caaguazu: Colorados, 21,148; Radical Liberals, 4,475, Liberals, 35. Caazapa: Colorados, 8,909; Radical Liberals, 48; Liberals, 119. Carapegua: Colorados, 9,146; Radical Liberals, 720; Liberals, 372. Concepcion: Colorados, 9,260; Radical Liberals, 2,813; Liberals, 272. Coronel Oviedo: Colorados, 21,166; Radical Liberals, 2,526; Liberals, 238. Eusebio Ayala: Colorados, 5,070; Radical Liberals, 0; Liberals, 198. Fernaando de la Mora: Colorados, 17,832; Radical Liberals, 855; Liberals, 335. Luque: Colorados, 20,437; Radical Liberals, 2,143; Liberals, 882. Roque Alonso: Colorados, 2,799; Radical Liberals, 77; Liberals, 233. Paraguari: Colorados, 5,651; Radical Liberals, 113; Liberals, 166. Ciudad Stroessner: Colorados, 12,909; Radical Liberals, 0; Liberals, 0. Puerto President Franco: Colorados, 5,554; Radical Liberals,250; Liberals, 2,110. San Juan Bautista de las Misiones: Colorados, 5,207; Radical Liberals, 870; Liberals, 1.284. Villa Hayes: Colorados, 2,926; Radical Liberals, 205; Liberals, 260. Ybicui: Colorados, 9,275; Radical Liberals, 475; Liberals, 29. Pilar: Colorados, 5,461; Radical Liberals, 152; Liberals, 435. Pedro Juan Caballero: Colorados, 16,284; Radical Liberals, 375; Liberals, 230. Encarnacion: Colorados, 11,975; Radical Liberals, 1.151; Liberals, 676. Villarica: Colorados, 12,139; Radical Liberals, 1,427; Liberals, 298. According to incomplete counts, 86 percent of the electorate in Asuncion favored Colorado Party candidates.

OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE ON ECUADOREAN AMAZON POSITION

PA120229Y Lima Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0130 GMT 12 Feb 78 PA

[Text of official communique No 002-78-43 issued by the Public Relations and Press Office of the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Relations on 11 February 1978 in Lima]

[Text] On the 9th day of this month, when the National Institute for the Settlement of the Ecuadorean Amazon Region was inaugurated before the members of the Supreme Council of Government of Ecuador, ranking officials and the diplomatic corps, the minister of foreign relations of that country made a speech, the contents and ideas of which deserve the frank rejection of the Peruvian Government for the following reasons:

1. The Ecuadorean foreign minister presupposes that the bilateral talks that the two countries had been holding were intended to "find a definitive settlement of the territorial issue that divides us" and to gain recognition of the fact that Ecuador is the country" that is most entitled to own" the Amazon.

Thus the talks--which were initially possible due to the good will of Peru in order to seek, within the framework of the 1942 Rio de Janeiro Protocol, the ways and means to overcome the unjustified opposition of that country to the exercise of the rights granted by the protocol--have been conditioned upon our previous acceptance of excessive and inadmissible terms.

2. Ecuador must realize that our relationship can be carried on peaceably only if it is based on the enforcement of said protocol, which is by nature perpetual since it is basically a border delimitation treaty. This and no other was the reason why the countries that guarantee the Rio de Janeiro Protocol reaffirmed its validity and force in view of Ecuador's intention unilaterally to declare it null by disregarding both a perfectly valid juridical instrument that it freely ratified--and thus compromising its honor as a sovereign nation to uphold it--and the historical reality and facts that bear out Peru's century-old presence in and sovereignty over the Amazon River, which Ecuador has never bordered.

3. Historically, the expedition that resulted in the discovery of the Amazon River left from Cusco on orders from Francisco Pizarro, the governor of Peru. Quito was then an integral part of Peru.

4. The rights in the Amazon claimed by Ecuador are acknowledged in the Rio de Janeiro protocol of 1942 whose Article 6 establishes the effective access of that country to the Amazon River by means of free navigation on that river and on its northern tributaries, thus giving Ecuador the same rights that Brazil and Colombia presently enjoy in addition to those rights agreed upon in a trade and navigation treaty, which Peru has always been prepared to negotiate in the most understanding way.

5. The Ecuadorean statement has come at a moment when the Brazilian Government is promoting talks for the establishment of a multilateral cooperation system in the Amazon region, which Peru and the Andean countries have viewed with interest and favor.

The disequilibrium that Ecuador is provoking by claiming its presence in the Amazon as a riparian state poses a serious threat to the possibilities that the Brazilian initiative has opened to the Amazon countries, since Ecuador is failing to recognize the juridical basis on which an Amazon region treaty would necessarily have to be founded.

6. The negative projections that derive from the Ecuadorean position regarding the Andean Group and, in general, Latin American integration, are increasingly disturbing to the extent that the Ecuadorean position subordinates the successful development of these very important integration processes to Peru's compliance with conditions impossible to satisfy and completely unacceptable to the Peruvian People.

Ecuador is trying to compromise an Andean country through tendentious interpretations of an allusion to Ecuador's claims over the Amazon generously made by that country's illustrious chief of state who, being a decided promoter of integrationist ideas, would never want to initiate a process that could lead to the disintegration of an endeavor of such great significance to our countries as is the Andean Group.

7. It is disappointing for Peru that the Ecuadorean Government, at the end of 10 years in which relations between our two countries reached the highest level in their history, id not take advantage of the occasion in which the National Institute of Colonization of the Ecuadorean Amazon region was inaugurated to respond to the initiatives that, with a constructive spirit, Peru has presented through statements made recently by its foreign relations minister for the purpose of creating the best environment for a fruitful dialog with Ecuador.

Lima, 11 February 1978

Public Relations and Press Office of the Foreign Relations Ministry

LEFTWING FACTIONS CLASH DURING MEETING; ARRESTS MADE

PA1014O2Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1245 GMT 10 Feb 78 PA

[By Miguel Paredes]

[Text] Lima, 10 Feb (LATIN)--In a display of popular power, the republican left tonight assembled here more than 30,000 supporters in a rally in which dozens of persons were injured and an as yet undetermined number of arrests were made. The rally was the largest meeting held by this political group in recent decades.

The event's five speakers at the 4-hour long event all demanded that the military government grant a labor and political amnesty. They also announced that the 48-hour general strike that was originally scheduled to be staged on 23 and 24 January, but was postponed some time ago by the General Confederation of Workers of Peru (CGTP), will be held after all. The meeting was organized by the Unitarian Struggle Committee (CUL), an organization that comprises the unions that have separated from the Peruvian Communist Party, which controls the CGTP.

Andres Luna Vargas, secretary general of the Peasants Confederation of Peru, scored Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez' administration and accused him of causing the country's current economic and financial situation. The CUL voiced its support for the 50 or so workers currently staging a hunger strike to demand the rehiring of dismissed workers and the return of the leaders and advisers deported since 19 July, when a general strike was held.

Almost at the end of the event, which was held at the San Martin Plaza, a group of CGTP sympathizers began booing and hissing the speakers. This led to a clash between the two factions which was soon controlled by the police. According to police spokesmen, dozens of persons were injured and several of the demonstrators were arrested by special service agents.

FOREIGN MINISTRY CONFIRMS ASYLUM GRANTED TO NICARAGUAN

PA120257Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0134 GMT 12 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 11 Feb (AFP)--The Foreign Ministry confirmed here today that it had granted asylum in the Venezuelan Embassy in Managua, Nicaragua, to Jose Montemar Ubeda, who took refuge there on Friday. The report states that Montemar Ubeda claimed to be the victim of persecution for participating in the strike which followed the killing of newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, the foremost opposition leader to General Somoza's regime.

The embassy in Managua has begun the necessary arrangements to obtain a safe-conduct for the Nicaraguan, the Foreign Ministry added.

CONTROVERSY ARISES REGARDING ASYLUM, SAFE-CONDUCTS

PA101611Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1218 GMT 10 Feb 78 PA

[By Felix Ropero]

[Excerpt] Caracas, 9 Feb (EFE)--Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez today said that in Venezuela safe-conducts for political asylees are a matter of principle and cannot be restricted. The president was referring to the harsh criticisms levied by veteran politician Jovito Villalba, leader of the Liberal Party Domocratic Republican Union, that were published in the Caracas press today. Villalba specifically mentioned the two socialist diplomats who took asylum in the U.S. Embassy in Caracas during the past 3 months and the safe-conducts for travel to the United States which the Venezuelan Foreign Minister granted in both cases.

Villalba noted that diplomatic asylum is an established practice of Spanish-American international law which, according to the agreements that regulate it, is not granted "to diplomats who desert their mission to enter into political or other types of agreements with representatives of other diplomatic missions."

Yuriy Fedorovich Yurchenko, trade attache of the Soviet Embassy in Caracas, and Ryszard Habdas, adviser of the Polish Embassy, and his wife and daughter took asylum in the U.S. Embassy on 4 November and 5 February, respectively.

Jovito Villalba, a jurist who was president-elect in 1952 but went into exile before reaching office because of pressure exerted by dictator Marcos Perez Jimenez, said that the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry should not consider their actions as taking asylum.

He stressed that if Venezuela accepts that classification, its conduct might lead some persons to believe that it has had a part in the events which led to the decision of the deserting diplomats. Villalba explained that in accordance with the conferences of Havana (1928), Montevideo (1933) and Caracas (1954), the institution of asylum is aimed at protecting those who are politically persecuted, that is, covering only political crimes and sometimes common crimes which are politically inspired or committed for political purposes.

The Venezuelan leader insisted that Venezuela can grant asylum in its territory to any diplomat who feels persecuted and thus expresses this, but acting "as a sovereign nation and never as a colony."

Regarding the two diplomats who took asylum, diplomatic sources and the Polish Embassy have mentioned alleged activities of the CIA which led the diplomats to take asylum in the U.S. Embassy in alleged connivance with the U.S. espionage network.

Meanwhile, the Caracas newspaper EL MUNDO today speculates that the deserting Polish adviser stole important documents on the training activities of the socialist bloc in Latin America. The newspaper quotes unidentified sources as saying that Habdas and his family have already left Venezuela aboard a U.S. plane to "a mysterious destination." Both the U.S. Embassy and the Venezuelan Government have remained silent, neither confirming nor denying any of these reports, while at the Polish Embassy there is great concern.

NICARAGUAN EXILES BROADCAST ANTI-SOMOZA PROGRAM

PA1014462 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0218 GMT 10 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 9 Feb (EFE)--It was learned here today that Nicaraguan exiles in Venezuela are using a Caracas radio station to incite young Nicaraguan soldiers to rebel against the Anastasio Somoza regime. The radio programs are directed by Vladimir Barquero, representative of the Nicaraguan Democratic Liberation Union [UDEL] in Venezuela. The UDEL was in charge of leading the unsucessful general strike in Nicaragua.

In a statement to the Caracas newspaper EL NACIONAL, Barquero said that the only real support Somoza has comes from a group of officers of the National Guard, a part of the ruling clique since the regime has been in power. He also explained that the radio program he directs from a local radio station is aimed at encouraging young National Guard officers "to cooperate with the people in the establishment of a climate of freedom by intensifying the current crisis of the Somoza government."

Barquero also stressed that his program seeks to convince the young soldiers that Somoza is not only protecting his political power over Nicaragua but also, and above all, his economic power "since he feels he owns the whole nation." "There is no industry or business that is not involved with the Somoza family, and the extent of its properties is incalculable." "The duty of the young soldiers who are not involved in the crimes and the exploitation of the people is to protect the fatherland and its people and not just the privileges of one family and its clique," Barquero added.

NATIONWIDE SOCIALIST COMMITTEES CALL FOR LEFTIST UNITY

PA1116232 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 11 Feb 78 PA

[Text] An appeal to leftist parties to agree on a single presidential candidate has been made by the socialist committees, which have been established nationwide. Carlos Rodriguez, a student of the Central University of Venezuela, explained the committees' objective:

[Begin recording] We of the socialist committees throughout the nation have been appealing to the secretaries general of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, Movement for Socialism and the (?People's Electoral Movement) to continue talks about the unity of leftist parties and the achievement of a united candidacy for the next elections. [passage indistinct]--[end recording] Carlos Rodriguez said that the socialist committees will make every effort to promote leftist unity.

EDITORIAL SCORES U.S. SENATORS' DILATORY TACTICS

PA1015S1Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 10 Feb 78 p 4 PA

[Editorial: "Generalized Vice"]

[Excerpts] Vices are different from plants. Different kinds of plants grow in different climates. For instance, apples do not grow in the Sahara Desert, nor do date palms grow near Moscow.

Vices, however, have a cosmopolitan quality. The same impulse that leads a thief to steal under tropical skies prompts the skilful fingers of the pickpockets in Paris and the "hoodlums" in New York.

This thesis is borne out by the fact that the world is now realizing what goes on in the U.S. Senate. This institution--that because of its high sociopolitical standing and its important and delicate functions should remain aloof from the evils which usually affect similar organizations elsewhere--has the same vices and practices as those which they so rightly criticize in other peoples. Sometimes these peoples are said to lack information or even are culturally underdeveloped.

It seems impossible to us that any Latin American country, despite the "tropical" temperament which many people attribute to us as if it were a disgrace, would adopt the attitude of politicking and irresponsible disorder which a certain faction of the U.S. Senate has adopted toward a problem as serious and far-reaching as a treaty between two nations. This faction has used a number of parliamentary dilatory tactics to delay the serious and conscientious study of the treaties between the United States and Panama.

The attitude assumed by Senator Allen and his followers is simply irresponsible. If he is opposed to the treaties, what he should do is to present serious arguments instead of the inconsistent ones that only show that he has no respect for the problems in which this country, as a member of the world community, is involved.

Even Panamanians who would be harmed by his activities and statements would have to listen respectfully if this congressman, who is an expert in trickery, presented reasons instead of intrigue.

What he does not seem to realize is that the voters in his state and even his party, when analyzing his position, will reach the conclusion that the interests of the American people are in bad shape when entrusted to people lacking congressional integrity like Mr Allen.

COLUMNIST SCORNS OPENING OF TREATY DEBATE IN U.S. SENATE

PA1301S5Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 11 Feb 78 p 4a PA

["Vox Populi Vox Dei" column by Luis Restrepo: "The Curtain Is Raised"]

[Text] The U.S. Senate has started to debate the Torrijos-Carter treaties on the Panama Canal. Immense publicity surrounds the spectacle being staged in Washington. Observers claim that this publicity campaign seeks to portray to the world the image of a democratic congress that does not hesitate to discuss national problems openly.

The actors on this carefully prepared stage were checked earlier by their aides, who covered the actors' faces--even those worst enemies of the self-determination of peoples and of the rights of nations whose only strength lies in the truth--with a coating of manifest kindness toward the weak.

The debates are being broadcast to the entire nation by a radio network. The listeners, if there are any, can follow the debates every day. Of course, the U.S. news agencies will add whatever is lacking to give the world a real, effective, and convincing image, and the impression that it is witnessing an open exchange of ideas, with respect for everyone's opinions, especially that of the weak nation which owns the land now being debated. Through a weird twist of fate this weak nation has been placed at the defendant's bench, where it is being tried before the whole world.

This is most certainly what is happening. Panama was mutilated in 1903 by a treaty which, as it has been said millions of times, no Panamanian ever signed. This is the only treaty in history which has caused the U.S. signator to publicly admit guilt in this mutilation. John Hay sent a letter to Senator Spooner confessing that "you and I know how many points there are in that treaty that any Panamanian patriot would object to."

Despite that public confession of guilt by the powerful nation, despite world condemnation of the events, that nation has insisted on holding on to what it obtained through blackmail and power. After 75 years of struggle Panama thought that finally justice would be done because succeeding U.S. presidents concurred on recognizing Panamanian rights. To reach this stage, however, Panama had to cede much and had to accept impositions by the superpower.

Then came the period of mass inspections. Hundreds of men came from the United States to delve into our past and present. They wanted to know how the Panamanian Government used its funds, what is being done regarding health, education, housing, rights, in fact everything pertaining to the private life of a country. They left with the impression that we are docile, passive, and that we can stand to accept much more.

Now, in a show of publicity, they, the powerful, are deciding the destiny of the weak country. There in the stately senatorial chamber some of them are saying that they defend the treaties as an act of justice toward a small nation, knowing well that what they are defending are their own interests. Others attack the treaties because they believe that not enough is being ceded by Panama. In the midst of the debate, Panama is carried from here to there, X-rayed all over as if Panama were in an operating room where the Senate surgeons use their scalpels to see if they can detect any signs of Cuban, Soviet, or Chinese presence which could endanger the security of the world's greatest nation, which has unlimited nuclear power.

The debates, quotes, explanations, defenses, and accusations have begun, and through it all, Panama lies powerless awaiting the decision of the gods of Mount Olympus.

SPOKESMAN DENIES INVOLVEMENT WITH DRUG TRAFFICKING

PA1118452 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 11 Feb 78 p 1a, 8a PA

[Text] A high-ranking spkesman of the Panamanian entities in charge of the repression of drug trafficking has told MATUTINO that Panama has important documents which will show the U.S. Senate the perversity of the anti-Panamanian political opposition which seeks to besmirch the name of our country with drug trafficking.

Those clear and important documents will permit the U.S. people to understand and analyze who are the ones who are involved in corrupting their young people, the spokesman said.

Throughout more than 8 years, Panama has waged a tenacious struggle against the drug traffickers who have tried to use our country as a drug route to the United States, he stressed.

The aforementioned statements were in reply to a question from MATUTINO regarding the U.S. Senate's decision to hold a closed-door session on 21 February to discuss the proposal of Robert Dole, Republican senator from Kansas and defeated vice presidential candidate, to the effect that the U.S. people be told of "the complete history of the Panamanian leaders' participation in drug trafficking."

Senator Dole is one of the harshest opponents of the new treaties and he had made the accusations at the end of last year.

International news agencies reports yesterday stressed that Peter Bensinger, chief of the U.S. office for the control of drug trafficking, sent a letter to Senator Dole indicating that General Torrijos has never been investigated for drug trafficking.

PANAMANIAN OFFICIALS, CANAL BOARD DISCUSS TRANSITION

PA111838Y Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 11 Feb 78 pp 1, 7 PA

[Text] An unprecedented session between members of the Panama Canal board of directors and officials of the Panamanian Government at the administration building yesterday morning was described as "informative and productive," by two of the attendants.

The joint session was said to be the result of recommendations made by several U.S. senators who urged that Panama Government officials meet with members of the board for briefings, aimed at expediting the transition process of the Panama Canal if the new treaties are approved by the U.S. Senate.

Said to have been discussed at the closed-door session chaired by Secretary of the Army Clifford L. Alexander Jr were the stability of Panama Canal employees U.S. and non-U.S. citizens--and Canal Zone properties that would revert to Panama.

Other members of the board included Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Richard N. Cooper, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (?Civil Works) Charles R. Ford, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs David E. McGiffert, Canal Zone Governor Harold R. Parfitt, Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard Adm Owen W. Siler and Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Terrence A. Todman.

Representing the Panamanian Government were Presidency Minister Fernando Manfredo, Planning and Economic Policy Minister Nicolas Ardito Barletta, Hydraulic Resources and Electrification (IRHE) Director Edwin Fabrega, Economic Advisor to the Chief of Government Rodrigo Gonzalez, Panamanian Ambassador to Washington Gabriel Lewis Galdino, former Ambassador to Washington and Assistant Secretary of the United Nations Robert Huertematte and Arnoldo Cano of the Panama Port Authority.

Although details of the discussions held were not officially disclosed, both Secretary of the Army Clifford L. Alexander and Gen. Torrijos' economic advisor Gonzalez said the session "was informative and productive."

On the matter of stability of Panama Canal employees, Rodrigo Gonzalez is said to have commented: "We want the majority to remain and work with us."

It was also unofficially revealed that employees living in the Canal Zone would hold priority in the purchase of their homes, in the event they form part of the organization at the time the treaty calls for a reverting of properties to the Panama Government.

Torrijos Meeting With Company

PA1102537 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 10 Feb 78 PA

[Interview with Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos by Televisora Nacional Reporter Luz Maria Noli in Farallon, Panama, on 10 February--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Chief of Government, could you briefly tell us the purpose of this morning's meeting?

[Answer] Its purpose was mostly for integration. Regardless of the treaties' fate, the canal is a fact; it exists in our country and cannot be administered or considered independently from other types of national activities. Clifford Alexander, who is the new Panama Canal Company president and who has very good integrationist ideas, told me a long time ago: Torrijos, regardless of the treaties' fate, there are areas in which we can integrate. The national university can integrate with the Barro Colorado scientists and your and our ecologists can measure the water levels of the hydrographic basins in the country which some day, because of the demands of maritime traffic, may be tributaries of Gatun Lake. In every aspect in which we can integrate without committing ourselves we have begun to integrate. Also, because of the quality of the persons we have appointed as representatives, they must deduce that we are serious and that we not only intend to operate the canal well but to do it as well or better than the way it is being operated. Independently of the various ideologies of the Panamanians, we admit that the canal is efficiently run. Also, we all admit as a national truth that the canal must never be run inefficiently.

[Question] Does this mean a change of attitude on the part of the U.S. officials and, specifically, of the Canal Company officials?

[Answer] Exactly. As you have said, there is a change of attitude. There is more integration and less staying behind the barbed-wire fences. Yes, there is a change of attitude toward the positive.

[Question] Will there be other integration meetings?

[Answer] Yes. Now they are going to appoint subcommissions, especially on the scientific level. This will allow the university and the Barro Colorado scientists to carry out research in the Atlantic, on the levels of the hydrographic basin, on ecology and in all other areas in which it will not be misinterpreted that we are already taking for granted what the senate has not approved.

[Question] Does this mean that it bears no relationship to the Senate discussions which all Panamanians are following so closely?

[Answer] No, there is no relationship; it had been planned long before. Whatever the outcome, the canal must continue to operate. Thus, this is more related to the canal's operation than to the ratification.

[Question] Among the specific matters discussed this morning, were the treaty caluses or economic matters brought up? Or could you tell me what was discussed in this meeting?

[Answer] No, nothing economic or about the clauses was discussed. They were sort of thinking on paper about what can happen in the future.

[Question] What attitude then should we Panamanians assume in view of the discussions held in the Senate and this meeting which came as a surprise to all of us today?

[Answer] The attitude we have all assumed: to maintain the greatest calm possible and to listen to the radio network in order to learn what people in other parts think of us. Luz, that is all. I do not want to commit myself so that later someone will say: This man put his foot in his mouth when everything was going so well and spoiled everything.

[Luz Maria Noli] Thank you, Mr Chief of Government.

LIBERAL PARTY WILL AVOID CORAL GABLES POLITICAL MEETING

PA130022Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 11 Feb 78 pp 1, 16 PA

[Liberal Party message to the Panamanian people issued in Panaman City on 10 February]

[Text] Compatriots:

At this crucial hour when the full U.S. Senate is discussing the Torrijos-Carter treaties, the leadership of the Liberal Party deems it appropriate to address the country and to outline its position regarding the treaties and other fundamental national issues.

We maintain that it is necessary for the Senate to approve the treaties in order to normalize the relations between the two countries, since the present state of disagreement does not benefit either nation.

On the other hand, approval of the treaties will establish a new relationship between Panama and the United States that will permit the attainment of objectives long demanded by Panamanians--objectives such as the training of our personnel to assume fully the management of the canal when the treaty expires.

We have not accepted the invitation extended to us by distinguished local politicians to attend a meeting in Miami because, at this time, approval of the treaties is being debated in the U.S. Senate and--since most of those attending the meeting have expressed opposition to the approval of the treaties--the very fact that they are meeting outside of Panama will have a negative impact on those debates.

The Liberals, who recommended that citizens vote in favor of the treaties in the plebiscite and who have urged those senators with whom they have talked in Panama to do likewise, can hardly participate in an event in which the prevailing criterion is opposition to those instruments.

The Liberal Party takes this opportunity to reaffirm the position, which has been expressed repeatedly, that it is necessary to permit the return of the exiles, the existence of political parties and the enactment of institutional reforms, specifically those reforms which insure the independence of government institutions, effective freedom of the communications media and the orderly development of the coming elections.

The results of the plebiscite indicated that the country is divided into two quantitatively equivalent parts. [sentence as published] This means that, henceforth, the government cannot continue to administer the country as if the other half did not exist, while the second group, in turn, cannot ignore the intentions and actions of the government.

When the treaties are approved, as we expect them to be, we will assume weighty responsibilities which can only be duly discharged if there exists a conscientious, defined and dynamic national unity.

This is why there is the need for a national understanding to delineate and implement the tasks that will allow us to solve the serious problems confronting the country. We therefore demand that, in order to insure a climate of peace and social coexistence, the national government immediately take a position that is consonant with the present political illness which is keeping the Panamanian family divided.

Liberal Party

[Signed] David Samudio A.

NICARAGUANS END HUNGER STRIKE AT PANAMA UN HEADQUARTERS

PA112115Y Panama City LA REPUBLICA in English 10 Feb 78 p 12-b PA

[Text] Six Nicaraguan students who February 1 began a hunger strike from within the United Nations' headquarters in Panama to protest the January 10 assassination of Nicaraguan newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, and demand the resignation of President Anastasio Somoza, suddenly brought the strike to and end yesterday by having their first meal in 12 days.

The students--four men and two women--took over the United Nations offices as part of an international wave of protest over the newsman's murder in Managua, supported by militant members of the Panama Students Revolutionary Front (FER), many of whom stood guard around the building for days.

The end of the strike followed an announcement by a spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Relations that Panama would not break with Nicaragua "because this nation is respectful of the principles of nonintervention in the internal affairs of other nations."

Scores of banner-carrying students, mostly members of the FER from Panama's high schools and University of Panama, yesterday staged a peaceful picketing around the Foreign Ministry. The banners called for a break of relations between Panama and Nicaragua, branded Somoza an assassin, and demanded the release of Nicaraguan political prisoners.

Earlier, a student committee had called on President Demetrio B. Lakas and handed him a note bearing 462 signatures, requesting the break in diplomatic relations "until such time as human rights prevail in Nicaragua."

The Nicaraguan students abandoned the UN headquarters late yesterday, escorted by several doctors who had examined them constantly during their hunger strike.

They are all members of the Nicaraguan Students Association in Panama.

"Somoza has managed to remain in power, despite the fury of a general strike, attacks by the Sandinista National Liberation Front, and international pressure," said one student.

"As it turned out, the imperialists are not interested at the moment in losing the tyrant, and have decided once more to publicly and violently support the interests of Somoza. This they are doing through diplomatic sources, CONDECA (National Defense Commission of Central America) and with the collaboration of the Southern Command in the Panama Canal Zone," said another student.

Looking pale and visibly weak from their efforts to remain firm, they explained their reason for suspending the hunger strike thus:

"We have suspended our hunger strike after conscientiously deciding we complied in a small [way] in our struggle against the tyrant Somoza and his exploiting regime. We shall not allow ourselves to be crushed by imperialism and its puppet. We shall continue our struggles on other fronts."

EDITORIAL FAULTS STATE COMPETITION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR

PA130159Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 11 Feb 78 p 4 PA

[Editorial: "The 'Rules of the Game' in Economic Development"]

[Text] The economic mechanisms of those countries that operate on the basis of free enterprise and competition are so markedly sensitive that in the same manner that they react positively to favorable situations and the measures adopted to encourage them, they promptly react negatively when adverse situations arise.

This is a logical development, for this markedly acute sensitivity to the various situations confronted by a country's economy results from very careful analyzes and through investigations. No conscientious and responsible business manager would be willing to risk the financial resources entrusted to him for investment projects without first learning the results of a number of detailed studies on current conditions and future prospects in areas such as production costs, incidence of labor conflicts, eventual market behavior and so forth.

The first condition essential to encourage a country's economy and guarantee its development is to define clearly and very precisely what has been called the "rules of the game." At the same time, guarantees for their adequate fulfillment should be offered so as to preclude the possibility of any abrupt changes, corrections, improvisations or turns, the results of which could be no other than to disorient and confuse, creating a climate of distrust, confusion and paralyzing perplexity. Possibly the most important and significant among these "rules of the game" is the need to define and establish the lines that separate the respective fields of action of the public and private sectors.

When the latter sees itself progressively invaded by state initiatives and enterprises--usually in the red and maintained through subsidies paid by the taxpayers--it logically feels intimidated and discouraged about the uncertain future.

This in no way means that the state could not or even should not participate directly in various productive activities, particularly in the area of services--a field that is usually associated with it--and even contribute to the development of other areas through the establishment of mixed companies whenever private capital is insufficient to adequately finance desirable projects. But this is very different from the inclination occasionally seen in certain countries to compete with the private sector under conditions that are obviously disadvantageous to it.

In short, the "rules of the game" that the state should establish call for a clear definition of who we are, what we want, what our principal objectives are and what path we should follow to achieve them.

1978 NATIONAL BUDGET AMOUNTS TO $538 MILLION

PA111616Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1422 GMT 11 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Panama City, 11 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The 1978 national budget amounts to $538 million, it was revealed today. The largest allocation, $140 million, is for the huge external and internal debt ($122 million and $22 million, respectively). A total of $116 million was assigned to investments and capital outlay. The Education Ministry receives the largest allocation as compared to the other ministries, with $77 million.

LAWS ON SLANDER, FREEDOM OF SPEECH APPROVED

PA110115Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Feb 78 PA

[Text] The National Information Commission announced today that the National Legislative Council has approved the law on slander and libel at the same time that it repealed Cabinet Decree No 343 dated 31 October 1969 on the exercise of freedom of speech and the responsibilities involved therein. It was noted that these measures constitute a major step forward toward the strengthening of our democratic system in this country.

One of the important laws approved is the constitutional charter of the electoral court and the electoral prosecutor's office as well as a law on electoral affairs and popular elections. It was also reported that the budget law was also approved. It was noted that further details about the laws that were approved today will soon be released to the public.

BRIEFS

FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN--According to a Panamanian Foreign Ministry Note, newsman Baltazar Aizpurua has been appointed spokesman for this ministry. He, the minister and the vice minister will be the only persons authorized to issue statements on ministry matters. [Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 9 Feb 78 PA]

NICARAGUAN CRISIS FORCES DECISION ON GOODS TRANSPORTATION

PA102116Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1813 GMT 10 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 10 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The current political crisis in Nicaragua will compel the rest of the Central American industrialists to move their merchandise by sea, Guatemalan Chamber of Industry President Alberto Habie officially reported here today. According to the industrialists' president, the first maritime route will join Costa Rica, El Salvador and Guatemala in the Pacific, using the ports of Puntarenas, Punta Ruca and San Jose. Habie noted that the Federation of Central American Industrial Chambers and Associations adopted the decision during a special meeting held in San Salvador on Wednesday. Habie added that besides the workers general strike in Nicaragua that hinders the transportation of merchandise, "there is the fear that transportation operations might be affected by the political turmoil in that country."

Habie said that the first action taken to implement the route was the creation of a committee which will obtain the ferryboats needed for transportation. He explained that the use of ferryboats would minimize expenditures as they do not require docks, piers or other special installations, not even deep-water ports. He added that it is hoped that the new route will begin operations "as soon as possible" to avoid further losses as a result of the backlog in inter-Central American commercial traffic.

BELIZE

PREMIER PRICE PRESSURED BY BRITAIN, U.S. ON CORRIDOR DEAL

FL111720Y Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 5 Feb 78 pp 2, 21, 22 FL

[Excerpt] 27th January, 1978. Intensive pressure from Britain and the United States was applied this week to George Price, but premature press revelation of the Guatemalan deal gave him a welcome breeding space. [as published]

Premier George Price flew to London on 24th January to be greeted with the GUARDIAN headline "Britain Agrees to Three-Way Split of Belize". The newspaper, in a fit of enthusiasm, had revealed that the British Foreign Office, under pressure from the United States, was planning to hand over chunks of Belize to Guatemala and Mexico.

The Mexican part of the story soon proved to be wholly incorrect, and the Mexicans were quick to point out that they stood four square behind George Price and had no intention of reviving their long dormant claim to a slice of northern Belize. The Foreign Office was equally quick to condemn the GUARDIAN story as reflecting "a degree of incompetence, carelessness and muddle".

Nevertheless a spokesman refused to deny the report that part of Belize was to be handed over in settlement of the Guatemalan claim, and an unusually reticent Price told reporters before going into talks with David Owen, the British foreign secretary: 'I would like to hear him say that he supports the secure independence of Belize and that we will retain all our land." Yet that was precisely what Owen was not able to say. For under the terms of an agreement that had been hammered out between Ted Rowlands of the British Foreign Office and Terence Todman of the State Department, Britain would like to provide Guatemala with a ten-mile-wide corridor to the Caribbean through the southern province of Belize together with the funding for a hundred-million-dollar oil refinery. The refinery would presumably refine the oil that Guatemala hopes will be found off the Belizean shore.

The deal has been under discussion for many months, but it has only been seriously pushed in the last few weeks, with Rowlands flying round the Caribbean trying to sell it to interested parties. Rowlands, an insignificant junior minister, has let it be known that he intends to go down in history as the man who solved the Belize-Guatemala dispute. In the meantime, Todman saw Price in Miami last weekend and is in Guatemala City this week for further discussions with President Kjell Laugerud. Small wonder that when George Price was summed to London journalists began to suspect that the deal with Guatemala was now an accomplished fact.

An embarrassed Foreign Office was forced to admit that a variety of possibilities had been considered, but any settlement would be one which was acceptable to the government and people of Belize. This position was confirmed in joint statement following the meeting in London. The British Government had clearly been badly caught out. Price followed up his advantage by insisting that any solution be put directly to the people of Belize and that the Commonwealth be involved in the process of consultation.

The key to Britain's embarrassment lies in Washington. The State Department believes that there is nothing wrong in principle with turning over a portion of Belize to Guatemala if this can buy Guatemalan agreement to accept Belizean independence. And it's believed further that the government of General Laugerud is likely to be more tractable on the Belize issue than any other government on the horizon after the elections. The more moderate tone of editorials in the Guatemalan press in recent weeks is an indication of the strength of the United States pressure.

This week's publicity, however, has probably killed the idea of a corridor for Guatemala through Belize for the time being; the British Government confusion will be seen by the State Department as further evidence of its incapacity to carry out even minor pieces of imperial business.

COSTA RICA

PRESIDENT-ELECT OPPOSES IDEA OF NEW CONSTITUTION

PA1101553Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0152 GMT 10 Feb 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 9 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Costa Rican President-elect Rodrigo Carazo emphatically opposes a new constitution, warning that if President Daniel Oduber insists upon this there will be a clash between the two men.

Carazo, the opposition presidential candidate who won in last Sunday's elections, interpreted his victory as evidence that the majority of the voters are against holding a constituent assembly.

He noted this afternoon that since he had repeatedly said he did not support efforts to write a new constitution, his election was equivalent to a referendum on the question.

"We need to govern and the country requires that this be done calmly and peacefully," he commented. "The presence of a constituent assembly creates a factor of instability and distracts from the exercise of power to the detriment of the nation's best interests," Carazo added.

In political circles it is said that Oduber wants a constituent assembly to be held to retain an important bloc of power after he leaves the presidency in May.

Apparently he has the necessary votes for the National Assembly to approve his proposal.

ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL ISSUES FINAL ELECTION RESULTS

PA110416Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2347 GMT 10 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpt] San Jose, Costa Rica, 10 Feb (LATIN)--The Supreme Electoral Tribunal today confirmed the victory of Radr 'arazo in Sunday's presidential elections. Carazo was the candidate of the opposit 'ty Party. In its last report, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal stated that Carazo o. .ed 418,642 votes while Luis Alberto Monge, presidential candidate of the National Liberation Party [PLN], obtained 363,157 votes.

The country's third most important political party, the leftist-leaning United People's Party, obtained 22,744 votes.

The Unity Party obtained 50.48 percent of the votes, the PLN obtained 43.79 percent and the United People's Party 2.64 percent.

The tribunal said this morning that it finished counting the vote figures sent in by the presidents of the precincts. The total number of votes in the republic was 829,310 out of the 1,058,445 persons registered for the elections.

NICARAGUAN EXILES SAY U.S. MERCENARIES HELP SOMOZA

PA110230Y Havana International Service in Spanish 000GMT 11 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Nicaraguan exiles in San Jose, Costa Rica, have charged that U.S. mercenaries are leading the operations that the Nicaraguan Air Force is carrying out against guerrillas of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN].

The exiles said that dictator Anastasio Somoza ordered the hiring of mercenaries in view of growing opposition among the members of the air force against the Nicaraguan regime.

In statements to the Costa Rican paper EXCELSIOR, Eduardo Chamorro, secretary general of the Nicaraguan Conservative Party [PCN], said that all forces must seek unity in order to create a front capable of accelerating the regime's downfall. The PCN is the only opposition political party allowed in Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, the FSLN has issued a communique reporting on recent armed attacks against the forces of the Somoza tyrany and urging the Nicaraguan people to continue the struggle against that regime.

Leaders of the General Labor Confederation of Nicaragua and of the Union of Construction Workers have announced that thousands of workers are prepared to participate in the hunger strike that approximately 1,000 persons are carrying out at seven churches in Managua.

These labor leaders have noted that although the enterprise sector's strike has ended, the workers are continuing the struggle against the Somoza dictatorship.

MOVEMENT OF 12 URGES SUPPORT FOR SANDINIST FRONT

PA112214Y San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 10 Feb 78 p 10a PA

[Text] The well-known Movement of 12, made up of prominent Nicaraguans, has asked the Nicaraguan people to fully support the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN).

In a communique sent to LA NACION, the movement announces that it has created "a big group made up of Nicaraguans who have decided to struggle for the overthrow of the Somoza dictatorship and for the establishment of a democratic government."

The communique states: "As a result of the united efforts being made by all the sectors that want the democratization of the country, the time is near when the Somoza dictatorship will be liquidated and our democratic and republican institutions will reappear in line with a new concept of social justice that has no room for any type of 'Somozism without Somoza,' a solution that no honest Nicaraguan will ever accept."

The communique notes that the FSLN has been the vanguard of the Nicaraguan revolutionary struggle and that "now, militarily and politically strengthened, the FSLN is carrying out a serious fight against the forces of the dictatorship in the countryside and in the cities of Nicaragua."

"It is necessary," the communique adds, "that all Nicaraguans who want a new and better fatherland give the FSLN our total support."

"For this reason," the communique states, "we are again calling on all the producing forces of the country, on businessmen and on workers to transform the patriotic general strike being carried out into an active resistance that will allow the mobilization of the people toward victory over Somoza and all the things he represents."

FACIO: TRADE AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED WITH CUBA 23 FEB

PA1019Z9Y Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Costa Rican Foreign Minister Gonzalo Facio announced in San Jose that Costa Rica and Cuba will sign a trade agreement on 23 February in Havana. A Costa Rican delegation of businessmen, government officials and special guests will leave soon for Cuba for this purpose.

BRIEFS

CULTURAL GROUP TO USSR--On 9 February, a Costa Rican cultural group consisting of the Chamber Chorus and the Costa Rican National Symphonic Orchestra began a tour of the USSR. The troupe will visit three cities in the USSR. [San Jose Cadena de Emisoras Columbia in Spanish 1720 GMT 11 Feb 78 PA] [SERCANO Network]

EL SALVADOR

REVOLUTIONARY GROUPS RECEIVE WEAPONS FROM ABROAD

PA1101137 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Since several weapons, including a Soviet-made one, have been seized from the [name indistinct] sugar mill strikers, the national police say this confirms that the various self-styled revolutionary groups are operating with foreign material and under instructions from abroad.

The police added that according to investigations, the weapons are brought in along rugged paths and through border areas that the Security Corps find hard to control, particularly at night.

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS END 5-DAY STRIKE, RETURN TO WORK

PA112236Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1710 GMT 11 Feb 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 11 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--More than 25,000 construction workers today returned to their jobs following a 5-day strike in demand of collective contracts.

A final solution to the problem will have to be found by an arbitration committee created by the Labor Ministry following lengthy conversations between labor leaders and management.

Felipe Antonio Zaldivar, secretary general of the Construction Workers Union, told ACAN-EFE today that the workers decided last night to return to their jobs. The decision was made during a general meeting in which a detailed report was heard on the negotiations.

Zaldivar praised the "exemplary" behavior of the strikers and the orderly and understanding attitude of pwners, state authorities and workers.

COFFEE INDUSTRY UNION ENDS 30-DAY STRIKE IN SANTA ANA

PA110059Y San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The Union of the Coffee Industry [SICAFE] was announced that since the union's demands have been met, the strike promoted at the San Lorenzo mill located in Santa Ana, 65 km from San Salvador, has been lifted.

According to SICAFE, the strike, which lasted 32 days, proved the strength of its union movement.

GUATEMALA

FSLN CLAIMS OFFERS OF HELP FROM PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS

PA110323Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0242 GMT 11 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 10 Feb (AFP)--The morning newspaper LA NACION reported here today that Palestinian elements have offered to fight at the side of Nicaraguan guerrillas against the Anastasio Somoza regime.

According to this report, the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] has reportedly warned in a clandestine communique that "just as Somoza hired mercenaries (Green Berets), the FSLN guerrillas have offers from the Palestine liberation front."

GOVERNMENT ORDERS INVESTIGATION OF BELIZE INCIDENT

PA110151Y Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] General Laugerud Garcia's government has officially asked the Guatemalan consul in Belize to obtain all available information in connection with an incident involving several Guatemalan citizens and a number of English soldiers stationed in Belize. If the investigations show that the soldiers committed any abuses against the Guatemalan citizens, a formal protest will be made to the British Government.

LAUGERUD SEEKS HONORABLE SOLUTION TO BELIZE ISSUE

PA111425Y Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa Network in Spanish 1220 GMT 11 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Guatemala City--President Kjell Laugerud Garcia said Guatemala is willing to settle the 100-year-long dispute over Belize as soon as possible. Belize is under the administration of the British Crown. He emphasized, however, that the solution must be honorable for Guatemala, and he reiterated that a popular consultation is the most suitable way to solve the issue.

Referring to the holding of a referendum, the Guatemalan chief of state pointed out that no state organization is empowered to make such a decision. [sentence as heard]

FIVE FIGHTER PLANES TO BE PURCHASED FROM THE UNITED STATES

PA111847Y Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa Network in Spanish 1720 GMT 11 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] It has been officially announced that Guatemala will buy four F-5 and one F-1 airplanes from the United States. These are fighter planes with modern equipment.

It was hinted that if in the final analysis the United States should refuse to sell the jetplanes, they would be bought from any other country. It was also said that Guatemala needs the planes for its own defense and therefore, if they are not purchased from the United States, they will be bought from any country willing to negotiate such a sale.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS STAGE DEMONSTRATION AGAINST SOMOZA

PA101813Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0027 GMT 10 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 9 Feb (AFP)--Some 5,000 high school students staged a demonstration here today against President Anastasio Somoza's regime and in support of the Nicaraguan people. The demonstration started out from the central square in this capital and ended in an orderly manner in front of the Nicaraguan Embassy.

FIRE DESTROYS PARTY OFFICES IN NEW POLITICAL VIOLENCE

PA102000Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1811 GMT 10 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 10 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--New acts of political violence were reported today in Guatemala in the heat of the preelectoral campaign that will culminate with the 5 March general elections. Unknown persons set fire to the Revolutionary Party's (PR) provincial office, which was reduced to ashes; the damages are estimated at 9,000 quetzales. The party leadership blames "enemies of presidential candidate Gen Lucas Romeo Garcia" for the incident. In another incident of political violence yesterday, the Guatemalan Association of Advertising Agencies reported that a radio station in the eastern part of the country was attacked and its equipment destroyed. Employees of another station in the northern part of the country were threatened with death. Both cases, according to the association, are considered part of an intimidation campaign conducted by political sectors dissatisfied with the transmission of paid advertisements by the different candidates.

NATIONALIST POPULAR BLOC TO SUPPORT BROAD FRONT CANDIDATES

PA122344Y Guatemala City EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 4 Feb 78 p 8 PA

[Excerpt] The Nationalist Popular Bloc has joined the broad front and announced its upcoming activities. According to the bloc's leaders, their group had originally planned to support another presidential candidate, but after analyzing the political situation and directly considering the national interests, they have decided to give their total and unconditional support to broad front candidates Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas and Dr Francisco Villagran Kramer, who have been nominated by the Democratic Institutional Pary and the Revolutionary Party.

HONDURAS

GOVERNMENT DENIES REPORT OF HUMAN RIGHTS INVESTIGATION

PA101617Y Tegucigalpa VOZ de Honduras Network in Spanish 1220 GMT 10 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] So far, the Honduran Government has not received any request from the Inter-American Human Rights Commission regarding alleged violations of rights in Honduras. It was also learned yesterday that the commission, which is an agency of the Organization of American States, has not received any report on these alleged violations as reported by news media in this country. Commission spokesmen said that they had no knowledge of any visit to Honduras of an investigating team because no such request had been made.

CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT REPEATS STAND ON AGARIAN REFORM

PA101918Y El Progreso Radio Progreso in Spanish 1230 GMT 10 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Chief of Government Gen Juan Alberto Melgar Castro said yesterday during a meeting with members of the Bajo Aguan project cooperative that there would be no more exploitation or serfdom in rural areas. General Melgar Castro and his cabinet arrived here early yesterday morning to inspect some agrarian projects and to attend the inauguration of the new African palm oil extracting plant. More than 1,000 cooperative members and peasants were present at the ceremony and enthusiastically cheered the chief of government when he referred to the end of exploitation and to the implementation of social justice for the workers. I am here to let you know that the agrarian reform process still is the armed forces government's first priority and fundamental objective, General Melgar Castro told them.

This is the second visit to the chief of government to the Bajo Aguan project. Last year, he came with the president of the Inter-American Development Bank. He said the armed forces are interested in fully developing the country's natural resources for the benefit of the rural people, and not in establishing assimilative financial monopolies, increasing the income of certain sectors, promoting agricultural monopolies, or binding the men in rural areas to humiliating conditions of serfdom. We are doing everything humanly possible to insure that deplorable, unjust and unhuman conditions do not continue, he added. These conditions must be eliminated by forming new trends of humanistic thinking. Every citizen should receive compensation according to the importance of the work he is doing and should have the right to participate in running the community of which he is a part, General Melgar Castro said.

He pointed out that the industrial projects in Olancho, together with the Bajo Aguan integrated agrarian project, are fundamental for regional development in Honduras.

General Melgar Castro said that he was pleased to have contributed to and witnessed the celebration of another important event of historic significance for the peasants' economic and social rights. The Bajo Aguan oil-extracting plant is expected to produce in this decade 32,000 tons of oil and 6,000 tons of African palm nuts from each crop.

Referring to this ambitious project, General Melgar Castro said that success cannot be obtained without hard work, technical knowledge and honesty. It is necessary, he said, to maintain strong determination to keep this zone a fortress for democracy. He assailed the skeptics, the enemies of the government, the do-nothings and those who maintain the blind and intolerant attitude toward exploiting the people for their own personal benefit or using them as stepping stones to set up monopolies. A hard battle will have to be waged against all this, General Melgar Castro said.

Efrain Diaz Galeas, director of the Federation of Cooperatives of the Agrarian Reform, also spoke at the ceremony and briefly criticized the National Development Bank's loan policy and accused it of being responsible for the shortage of basic grains in the country.

Fabio Arauz Salgado, National Agrarian Institute director, also spoke. He said that what was important about the Bajo Aguan project was the incorporation of the zone into the agroindustrial development program. He said that the African palm oil-extracting plant, with its capacity to process 3 tons of palm nuts per hour, is the first in a series of plants that will be built in the near future.

General Melgar Castro and his cabinet today will visit Tocoa (Salada) and the left bank of the Aguan River and tomorrow the sector of Tocoa (Corocita).

PEASANT LEADER WARNS GOVERNMENT ON AGRARIAN REFORM

PA120422Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2105 GMT 11 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 11 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Reyes Rodriguez Arevalo, president of the National Association of Honduran Peasants [ANACH], warned the government today that unless the agrarian reform process is invigorated soon, social unrest will break out in the agrarian sector.

The labor leader said that in the past few months in the countryside, "dissatisfaction has mounted because planting time is approaching and the peasants are landless."

According to Rodriguez Arevalo, the situation is even more dramatic if one considers that "the prices of the staples the peasants need are rising constantly."

The ANACH leader said that the problem of the countryside is not only the lack of land. In some cases, he explained, peasants already have it, but the government does not given them technical or financial assistance.

Rodriguez Arevalo's warning comes a few days after Chief of State Gen Juan Alberto Melgar Castro stated in Valle del Aguan on the Atlantic coast that agrarian reform continues to be a "fundamental task of the armed forces."

NICARAGUA

CONGRESS AGAIN REJECTS MOTION FOR SOMOZA'S RESIGNATION

PA101635Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1551 GMT 10 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 10 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--For the second time this week, the Nicaraguan Congress last night rejected a Conservative Party motion demanding President Anastasio Somoza's resignation. Last Wednesday, a similar motion was defeated by the Chamber of Deputies by a vote of 36 to 26.

TENSION CONTINUES, SEVERAL DISTURBANCES REPORTED

PA101808Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1552 GMT 10 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 10 Feb (LATIN)--Precisely 1 month after the assassination of opposition newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, the political and social tension that gave way to violent disturbances during the past 30 days continues here. Last night, police patrols were unable to enter a neighborhood in southeastern Managua where large demonstrations were held and huge bonfires were set. Demonstrators had erected barricades on access streets to prevent the police from entering. Managua Police Chief Col Alesio Gutierrez has announced that because of the frequent obstructions of traffic and attacks on private property, 180-day prison sentences will be given to those who disrupt order. Meanwhile, night protests continue although on a smaller scale in neighborhoods of Leon, Masaya and Matagalpa. From another quarter, Norman Wolfson, the U.S. public relations adviser hired by President Anastasio Somoza, returns to the United States today. It has been announced that his replacement will maintain contact with the foreign correspondents still in Nicaragua, most of whom are representatives of various Venezuelan news media. Meanwhile, the opposition party Democratic Liberation Union (UDEL) has organized a number of masses in almost all of the country's churches today to commemorate the first month since Chamorro's death and "for the eternal rest of the soul of Chamorro, martyr of freedom."

VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS HELD FOLLOWING MASS FOR CHAMORRO

PA110442Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0441 GMT 11 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 10 Feb (LATIN)--Violent demonstrations were held in Managua tonight following the masses which were held on the occasion of the first month of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro's murder. Several vehicles were overturned and burned, barricades were erected in several suburbs, and at least one house was shot up and stoned. Several demonstrations were held but the largest one, of approximately 1,000 persons, occurred in Maximo Jerez suburb southeast of the capital, where a house containing several Somoza supporters was shot up. Two persons were slightly injured. The police managed to restore order by 2100.

One Killed in Granada Demonstration

PA121830Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1655 GMT 12 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Granada (Nicaragua), 12 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--One person died, two sustained bullet wounds, several were beaten and an unspecified number of persons were arrested as the result of an opposition demonstration last night in this eastern Nicaraguan city.

The incidents occurred in Palmira District shortly after 2200 (0400 GMT) after a mass had been held for the soul of newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, who was assassinated over 1 month ago in Managua. The mass was celebrated at San Francisco Church. After the religious services, a demonstration five blocks long was held in the streets of this city.

As the demonstration progressed through Palmira District, troops proceeded to disperse the demonstrators by firing into the air. The demonstrators dispersed and fled in several directions. According to unofficial reports, the persons who were hit by the bullets belonged to the Ruiz family, which has long been involved with the opposition (legal) Conservative Party of Nicaragua. In this family's house, Anita Ruiz, a 32-year old hairdresser, was killed by a bullet, which had gone through her throat. It was also reported that Anselmo Ruiz, age 24, and Susana Ruiz were also wounded and taken to a local hospital.

This morning, Aquiles Aranda, an official spokesman of the Nicaraguan Army, issued a communique reporting on the incidents and noting that they are being investigated "to establish responsibilities." The official statement states that "at (?1030) on the night of 11 February, an incident that has not yet been clearly established occurred in which a police patrol car was attacked by a mob on Altamira Street in the city of Granada, which resulted in the death of one person and the wounding of two others. The Nicaraguan National Guard deeply regrets these unfortunate incidents and states that a thorough investigation has been ordered to establish responsibilities for what has occurred," concludes the military report.

The situation was fairly tense in the 400-year old city after another street demonstration took place on the night of 10 February, a month after Dr Chamorro Cardenal's assassination; when demonstrators attempted to set fire to the building that houses the Granada Court of Appeals and the Property Registration Office. The demonstrators also attempted to set fire to the building that houses the office of the ruling Nationalist Liberal Party. On both occasions, the city's firemen went into action and prevented the fire. During the same demonstration, some groups damaged the installations of the privately owned Policlinica Oriental. They also smashed the neon sign of the National Development Institute (INFONAC), a decentralized government institution. It was also learned that the demonstrators threatened magistrate Alejandro Barberena Perez, a leader of the Liberal Party.

Meanwhile, the funeral of Mrs Anita Ruiz, which will be held this afternoon, is keeping the city in a state of quiet tension.

Guerrillas Attack Government Bank

PA121903Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1820 GMT 12 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 12 Feb (AFP)--Sandinist guerrillas today attacked a government bank in the northern part of the country, while attacks on homes and other incidents in several parts of Nicaragua disrupted the brief calm of the last few hours.

One person died and two others were injured in the most serious of the incidents which, according to police reports, occurred last night in Granada, 50 miles east of Managua.

The Sandinists attacked a branch of the government bank in La Trinidad, 145 km north of this capital. It was reported here today that the members of the guerrilla brigade fled with $14,000 in loot and left the letters FSLN, the initials of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, written on the walls of the bank. Last night, youth groups in this capital, who were determined to keep businesses from reopening, attacked several stores and barbershops in the southeastern section of Managua, causing the police to intervene.

Meanwhile, Col Alberto Luna, government radio broadcasting director, warned radio stations that newsmen must observe the law which forbids them to broadcast proclamations or make "biased" comments. Luna accused Mi Preferida, one of the country's main radio stations, of inciting the people to take up arms against the government. The radio stations had announced that they would return to normal operations tomorrow, Monday, as would LA PRENSA newspaper, which has appeared without advertising for the 22 days the strike has been underway.

NEWSMEN SAY 'CATACOMB JOURNALISM' WILL END MONDAY

PA121936Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1215 GMT 12 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 12 Feb (LATIN)--The "catacomb journalism," one of the last manifestations of the labor-management strike that attempted to overthrow Anastasio Somoza's government, will end tomorrow when the rebellious Association of Newsmen of Managua will resume work, according to an announcement the association made yesterday.

Meanwhile, limited and sporadic demonstrations are still being staged at night in Managua and other cities on the Pacific coast. The protest also continues at the opposition newspaper LA PRENSA. The newspaper continues to publish 8-page issues without ads, social or sports news, and with 90 percent of the space devoted to political news, commentaries and fiery proclamations.

In another development, the newspapers yesterday published a communique from the U.S. State Department voicing hope that "it will be possible to find a peaceful solution to the current political crisis" in Nicaragua. The communique adds that "the United States would deeply regret any attempt to resort to further acts of violence and hopes that the situation will return to nonviolence and peaceful exchange to solve the crisis as soon as possible."

In view of the various U.S. armed interventions in Nicaragua and the many historical circumstances in which the Washington government has been a decisive factor in the maintenance of changes in government in this country, the declaration has had a great impact in the country's political sectors. Despite the U.S. Government's avowed nonintervention in the internal affairs of this country, it is a known fact that Nicaraguan opposition or government politicians usually visit the U.S. Embassy each time they plan an important political move. Furthermore, many of them, not being satisfied with such contacts, visit the U.S. State Department in Washington to return home with a "higher level" version.

FOUR SANDINISTS TAKE REFUGE IN VENEZUELAN EMBASSY IN NICARAGUA

PA111617Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 11 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Four more Sandinists have taken refuge in the Venezuelan Embassy in Nicaragua.

One of the Nicaraguans has been identified as Jose Montemar Poveda, who has a sister in jail in Nicaragua. Gustavao Pinto Salinas, charge d'affaires at the Venezuelan Embassy in Nicaragua, has reportedly already initiated contacts with the Foreign Ministry to have asylum granted to the Nicaraguans.

SOMOZA'S SON DENIES HAVING AMBITIONS TO SUCCEED FATHER

PA1204172 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0229 GMT 12 Feb 78 PA

[By Ricardo Ritter]

[Excerpts] Managua, 11 Feb (LATIN)--Nicaraguan Air Force Maj Anastasio Somoza Portocarrero today denied having any political ambition to succeed his father, Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle, when he turns over power to whoever wins the elections in 1981. Somoza Portocarrero, whom--according to spokesmen for the opposition--his father will probably promote to colonel this year, also denied involvement in the killing of newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro on 10 January.

"Right now, I am so busy raising the professional level of the National Guard that I have no time to deny the number of accusations leveled against me," Somoza Portocarrero said during an exclusive interview with this news agency. Several months ago, it was very difficult to interview Somoza Portocarrero, but the "dictator's apprentice," as the opposition calls him, has recently changed his attitude. "Look, I just want to make good citizens out of the guardsmen so that we will not have any madmen running around loose and so that we can live in peace," said the major, who was wearing his olive drab fatigues with the name "Somoza-Nicaragua" engraved on the pockets.

"I have been entrusted with a battalion of 800 men between the ages of 18 and 20 and I am educating them," he remarked before interrupting the interview to embrace a young lady who approached him as he left the Continental Hotel.

"I cut my hair because one has to set an example," he said with a smile while in front of his official automobile. A short distance away from Somoza Portocarrero, the guardsmen armed with submachineguns were watching over their boss. "The guard colonels accuse me of fomenting insubordination because I have just asked my men not to call me Somoza. We are through with personality cults here," he said.

"I hope the National Guard will be at a higher level than the American military--if that is possible," Somoza Portocarrero stated. He has just returned from a trip to the United States.

"My father told me the other day that we should raise the level of the National Guard so that its members will become citizens who abide by the constitution and are good citizens," he noted.

The National Guard has been accused by the opposition of being the bulwark of the corrupt apparatus in this Central American country, where the Somoza family has been in power for the past 43 years. Most of the guardsmen are of peasant background. The soldiers earn about $60 a month, but this amount totals much more because they enjoy certain privileges and other benefits. Some opposition leaders claim that the $1.50 tax all tourists have to pay when they arrive in Nicaragua goes to the National Guard.

The Presidential Battalion and the Specialized Battalion Against Terrorist Activities are the best trained detachments within the guard. According to the opposition, they were trained in the Panama Canal Zone and the United States. "I have been blamed for whatever incidents have recently taken place in Nicaragua. This is so ridiculous that I simply pay no attention to it," Somoza Portocarrero remarked.

Large opposition groups in Nicaragua believe that he plotted the killing of Chamorro, the late editor of the opposition newspaper LA PRENSA. Their charges are reflected in what the mob chanted on 11 January as it set fire to buildings belonging to the Somoza family: "Who Killed Pedro Joaquin? The 'Chihuin.'" In the lingo of the Nicaraguan people, chihuin means a very small tot. The opposition has described the young Somoza as "an impulsive child who likes to embarrass and scare people."

Dressed in his olive drab fatigues, the 32-year-old Anastasio mixes his Spanish with some English phrases, a fact which increases his appearance as a U.S. professional soldier. "I have no aspirations to become a dictator," he answered tersely. "I am a solider and want to finish as a soldier, and later live in peace and have a family."

"Look, you do not know what we went through when the old man's heart failed. One has to be prepared so that we may live in peace," he explained in referring to the heart ailment of President Somoza around the middle of last year. The young Somoza said: "I have no political ambitions. I am accused of being like my father, but I assure you that I am only interested in being a soldier."

HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION DENIES SITUATION IMPROVED

PA101824Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0114 GMT 10 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 9 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--An official statement issued by the Permanent Committee for the Defense of Human Rights [CPDH] for worldwide dissemination today denied that "the critical human rights situation has improved "in this Central American country. A communique issued and signed here by CPDH Secretary General Jose Esteban Gonzalez said that "there has been no improvement in the status of the killings of defenseless citizens, imprisonment, searches of homes and outrages committed against freedom of expression and communication."

The statement added that "retaliation against the businessmen and labor leaders who support the 15-day strike, offenses against priests and nuns and the harassment of government employees are painfully irrefutable proof that the Somoza regime continues to systematically violate these rights." The CPDH communique was issued to clarify an editorial in the Washington POST and relayed by EFE news agency. The editorial claims there has been an improvement in respect for human rights in the past months in Nicaragua.

The official testimony of the Nicaraguan committee on human rights adds that the "clumsy attempts to allegedly investigate the horrendous assassination of newsman Pedro Jaquin Chamorro Cardenal has been the climax and final touch of the previously described situation."

The CPDH has queried the country's military authorities about the disappearance of hundreds of citizens from the north who were reported by former military collaborators to be imprisoned in several jails.

RAUL CASTRO GREETS PARAGUAYAN CP LEADERS 11 FEB

PA121253Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1210 GMT 12 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Havana, 11 Feb (EFE)--Raul Castro, Cuban armed forces minister, made a public appearance here today at Jose Marti Airport following an approximately 2-and-1/2-month absence when his whereabouts were unknown. Together with Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the State Council and Council of Ministers of this country, the brother of Cuban President Fidel Castro met Antonio Maidana, one of the most outstanding leaders of the Paraguayan Communist Party [PCP].

Maidana, secretary general of the PCP, and Alfredo Alcorta and Julio Rojas, members of the PCP Central Committee, arrived in Havana tonight from Moscow. A large portrait of Maidana was prominently displayed in the reception area, which was decorated with Cuban and Paraguayan flags. Young Cubans, members of the Paraguayan colony and representatives of European and American communist parties accredited here gave the exiled leaders a warm welcome.

Maidana and Alcorta were set free last year following several decades of jailings and persecution. They went to Moscow after residing in Lima and Switzerland. They will remain in Cuba until Tuesday, 21 February, after visiting several cities. The possibility of a meeting with Fidel Castro has not been ruled out.

However, of greatest interest to newsmen at the airport was the presence of Raul Castro, who was wearing the uniform of a general of the armed forces. He seemed in excellent health and perhaps more tanned than usual. Raul Castro had left Cuba in early December at the head of a delegation which represented his country at the congress of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), held in the Angolan capital. After several weeks during which his whereabouts were unknown, it was learned that he had been in Algeria. Fidel Castro subsequently announced to the National Assembly that he was abroad to carry out "important tasks assigned by the party."

U.S. radio stations also announced that Raul Castro had been attacked in Ethiopia but was unharmed. All the rumors were disproved when the Cuban minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces appeared on television early this month, talking with USSR President Leonid Brezhnev.

FIDEL MEETS WITH WFTU LEADER, NICARAGUAN PRIEST

WFTU President Pastorino

FL101221Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 10 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, PCC first secretary and Council of State president, has met with WFTU President Enrique Pastorino, who is visiting our country. Pastorino briefed Fidel on WFTU preparations for the Ninth [as heard] World Labor Congress which will be held in Czechoslovakia in April. They also discussed topics related to the international labor movement, especially the Latin American movement.

Nicaraguan Ernesto Cardenal

FL111610Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Council of State, has received Nicaraguan priest and poet Ernesto Cardenal. During the talks Cardenal briefed the commander in chief on the current situation in Nicaragua as well as on the efforts being made by the masses and anti-Somoza forces in the struggle to overthrow the Somoza and establish a democratic government of national unity.

SOVIET ENVOY VISITS WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

FL102250Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1905 GMT 10 Feb 78 FL

[Excerpt] USSR Ambassador to Cuba Comrade Nikita P. Tolubeyev has held fraternal talks with the members of the [11th World Youth and Students Festival] International Preparatory Committee at the organization's main offices located in the Aldama suburb. During the meeting the Soviet diplomat pointed out the profound significance of the Havana festival and added that, with different levels of possibilities, the world youth are preparing to participate in the grand event.

In his talks with committee members, Tolubeyev referred to the profound significance that the festival on the 25th anniversary of the assault on the Moncada barracks has for the Cuban people. With that great action, the Soviet ambassador added, a new force was born which produced the current development of the Cuban people.

Tolubeyev pointed out that the Havana festival offers a good opportunity to explain to the world youth the significance of the 1980 Olympic games in Moscow. For the very first time in the history of sports, Tolubeyev stated, the Olympic games will be held in a socialist country. Elsewhere in his speech, the Soviet ambassador referred to the upcoming Leninist Komsomol congress in Moscow, an event which he termed very important for his country's youth.

On behalf of the Union of Youth Communists and its youth and student organizations, Luis Felipe Vazquez pointed out that Cuban youths see the USSR ambassador as the representative of the country which changed the course of history.

VILMA ESPIN SIGNS APPEAL ON SOLIDARITY WITH URUGUAY

FL102205Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1902 GMT 10 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Chaired by Vilma Espin, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC], an appeal for solidarity with the Uruguayan people and children has been signed at the FMC main offices. The ceremony was attended by Manuel Pineiro, member of the PCC Central Committee and chief of its America department, Dr Hugo Villar, executive secretary of the broad front in exile; FMC Secretariat and National Committee members; and Uruguayan revolutionary personalities.

Vilma Espin pointed out that the appeal's objective was to reiterate our country's solidarity with the Uruguayan people and, in that manner, support their just demands. She added that the Uruguayan people are living a dramatic situation in which the most essential human rights are violated and the workers, students and intellectuals are being tortured. She also stated that it has been reported that repression and brutal treatment are profoundly affecting all the Uruguayan people.

Espin said that many children have been abruptly separated from their parents; others suffer from hunger and poverty as a result of the political persecution being endured by their relatives, and still others have been born in prison, some being there still. Vilma pointed out that the declaration on international aid for the children of Uruguayan prisoners is within the framework of our activities of support for and solidarity with the struggle of that fraternal nation.

In closing she said: With this document we are sending the Uruguayan people the solidarity message of the Cuban women. She added: We demand freedom for all patriots in prison or whose whereabouts are unknown, as well as the enforcement of human rights in that country.

The FMC appeal for solidarity with Uruguayan children points out that since ancient times the most brilliant wise men have always expressed just and noble ideas in connection with the attintion and care that should be given children for the good of the peoples' future. It adds that contemporary national and international institutions have emphasized the importance that childhood has for mankind's destiny. The FMC document states in closing that 18 years ago the United Nations included in its declaration on children universal precepts whose acceptance implies a commitment on the part of UN members. Among many, it stipulates the following principles: healthy upbringing and development, love, well-being, understanding and friendship among peoples.

VILMA ESPIN TO ATTEND ECLA MEETING IN JAMAICA

FL120015Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The Jamaican newspaper DAILY NEWS today highlights the upcoming arrival of Vilma Espin in Kingston to chair a conference to be held Tuesday under the sponsorship of the Economic Commission for Latin America [ECLA]. The daily reports on the political work of the president of the Federation of Cuban Women and calls her a heroine and a revolutionary woman. The paper adds that Vilma Espin will be an official guest of the national women's movement headed by Beverly Manley, the wife of Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley. The Cuban leader will also address a mass rally to be held in the Government House gardens.

The ECLA meeting in which Vilma Espin will participate will last 2 days and will approve the final project of a plan for the integration of Latin American and Caribbean women into the region's economic development.

VICE MINISTER MEETS HUNGARIAN YOUTH DELEGATION

FL091739Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Vice Minister of Culture Rafael Almeida has received the Hungarian Communist Youth League Central Committee delegation headed by Janos Barabas, secretary of the organization, in the capital. The Hungarian youth leader expressed thanks for the attention his delegation has received during their stay in our country, which began on 28 January. The vice minister spoke of the immediate tasks undertaken by the Culture Ministry in preparation for the 11th World Youth and Students Festival.

SAO TOME DELEGATION MEETS FERNANDEZ PADILLA, PENALVER

Labor Affairs Discussed

FL101145Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Sao Tome and Principe Agriculture and Labor Minister Henrique Pinto da Costa has visited the State Committee for Labor and Social Security in Havana where he was received by that organization's president, Oscare Fernandez Padilla. During the meeting Fernandez Padilla told the Pinto da Costa delegation that he hopes this visit to our country will strengthen the fraternal ties which join the two nations.

On his part, Henrique Pinto da Costa explained the structure of the organization under his charge. He, as well as his entourage, exchanged information on that organization with the Cuban officials.

The Sao Tome and Principe delegation is visiting our country in response to an invitation by Rafael Francia Mestre, PCC Central Committee member and agriculture minister.

Agriculture Experience Exchanged

FL112155Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2104 GMT 11 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Sao Tome and Principe Agriculture Minister Henrique Pinto da Costa has held fraternal talks with Rene Penalver, secretary general of the Livestock-Agricultural Workers Trade Union. Participating in the cordial talks conducted at the plaza hall of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers were officials of Sao Tome and Principe who are members of the delegation visiting our country. During the meeting the visitor showed great interest in Cuba's experiences in organizing socialist emulation. He was briefed extensively on the methodology followed in that front by the Livestock-Agricultural Trade Union.

The Sao Tome and Principe delegation has paid visits to livestock-agricultural projects and institutions where it has exchanged experiences on economic and trade union activities.

RADIO REPORTS ETHIOPIAN APPEAL TO SOMALI FORCES

FL101444Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1355 GMT 10 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Ethiopia's National Revolutionary Operations Command has urged the invading Somali forces to surrender peacefully on the battlefronts or face the consequences of continued hostilities. The Ethiopian command appeal to Somali soldiers states that the defensive war waged by Ethiopia is not meant to kill Somali forces and proclaims determination to defend the invaded territory and the revolution. The communique calls on the Somali military forces to comprehend the reactionary character of the war being waged against Ethiopia and emphasized that the nation will fight to its last man to achieve its revolutionary objectives. The Operations Command stresses its certainty that Ethiopia will be victorious and demands the surrender of Somali troops, who are assured a peaceful reception.

In its call for Somali troops to surrender, Ethiopia's National Revolutionary Operations Command reiterates that the solution to the conflict in the Horn of Africa is for the invading forces to withdraw immediately. It adds that the Western press completely ignores the participation of NATO members and Arab governments in the aggression against Ethiopia. It absolves the aggressor while condemning the victim of the aggression with a strange sense of justice.

An Ethiopian spokesman emphasized that those who support the war are these forces, and not the USSR or Cuba, which speak for peace and inviolability of territorial integrity. The document reiterates that the Somali soldiers who surrender to the revolutionary militia and the regular forces will receive fraternal hospitality.

POLISH HEALTH DELEGATION VISITS MINSAP

FL101853Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Polish Health Minister Marian Sliwinski has visited the Health Ministry--MINSAP--where he was received by his Cuban counterpart, Jose A. Gutierrez Muniz, alternate member of the PCC Central Committee. During the friendly visit, Gutierrez Muniz briefed the Polish delegation fully on the national health system, plans and future work prospects.

Sliwinski arrived in Cuba on Thursday at the invitation of MINSAP.

BARBADOS

FOREIGN MINISTER ADDRESSES BELIZE QUESTION

FL111710Y Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 8 Feb 78 pp 1, 2 FL

[Text] The following statement was made by the Barbados minister of external affairs, Honourable Henry de B. Forde, in the House of Assembly on 31 January 1978:

I have the honour to report to this honourable house on certain developments relating to our CARICOM sister state, Belize, which as honourable members are aware has been seeking to move to independence with its territorial integrity intact, its boundaries secure and a credible guarantee against external aggression from its neighbour Guatemala.

Barbados has over the years been consistent and persistent in championing the cause of Belize in its fight for independence and together with the other independent Commonwealth Caribbean countries, has been in the forefront of those speaking out on its behalf both at the United Nations and at Commonwealth heads of government conferences. At the last two such conferences successive prime ministers of Barbados have made major policy statements expressing the support of the Caribbean for the principle of independence for Belize with territorial integrity. On both occasions the position of the Caribbean prime ministers was firmly stated: namely, that it is incumbent on the United Kingdom as the administering power to take whatever steps were necessary to insure that Belize should proceed to early independence with the appropriate guarantees for its security and its existing territory.

At the Commonwealth conference in London last year, a ministerial committee on Belize was established of which I have the honour to be chairman, and which was mandated to seek support for a negotiated settlement both within and outside the Commonwealth.

Meetings of this committee were held in New York during the 32nd session of the United Nations General Assembly and the committee heard statements from the British foreign secretary and Premier Price. Discussions have also been held by me with representatives of the United States State Department--that is, both with their permament representative to the United Nations and the assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs.

At these meetings the Barbados view that there would be no cession of land leading to settlement of the dispute between Guatemala and Britain over Belize has been put to the Government of the United States of America and that government has been urged to use its influence in the region in favour of Belize and independence without the truncation of its territory. I regret to report that the United States does not appear to share our view of the matter and to be lending its weight to those who advocate a settlement at the cost of some cession of Belize territory, euphemistically referred to as "border adjustments."

During the last session of the United Nations General Assembly the Caribbean states co-sponsored a resolution which reiterated the feelings of the majority of United Nations members that Belize must proceed to independence with its territory intact. Our diplomatic initiatives resulted in positive votes from some countries which had previously abstained on similar resolutions and abstentions from countries which had previously voted against them.

As a result of the initiatives undertaken since June 1977 the vast majority of Latin American countries now either support independence for Belize with full territorial integrity or else have taken a neutral stand on the issue.

In December of last year, at the invitation of the Jamaican foreign minister, a meeting of those Latin American countries which had participated in the Bogota summit as well as those states which are members of the Commonwealth committee was called to discuss the question of Belize. A strong declaration in support of Belize was issued at the conclusion of this meeting.

Earlier this month Mr. Ted Rowlands, the British minister of state at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, visited Barbados and held discussions with the United Kingdom and Guatemala. Subsequent to these discussions the minister of state visited Jamaica where he held discussions with the foreign minister and premier of Belize. Resulting from these discussions the premier of Belize was invited to London for discussion with the foreign secretary.

In our discussions with the British minister of state both the prime minister and myself have again reiterated Barbados' firm stand in the matter. It is that:

A. Belize is well qualified by all accepted standards to become a fully self-governing and independent country;

B. The United Kingdom is under a duty consistent with the principles of the United Nations Charter to take all appropriate and urgent steps to secure early independence for Belize;

C. Guatemala has neither a valid, legal nor moral claim to even one square inch of Belize territory;

D. The Government of Barbados will not lend its weight, authority or support to any cession of Belizean territory which may be negotiated as a way of buying off the Guatemala claim;

E. The United Kingdom in consultation with other interested parties should continue to explore a suitable guarantee for the security of Belize after independence. Until such an international guarantee is forthcoming, Britain should seriously consider an effective British military presence remaining in an independent Belize with the consent of the Belizeans, at least to enable Belize to build up its own armed capabilities and to canvass effective support for an internationally credible guarantee;

F. In any event, the government and people of Belize must freely and without pressure be allowed to accept or reject the suggested terms of any settlement.

In statements in the House of Commons both the British prime minister and foreign secretary admitted that discussions have taken place with Guatemala and Belize which involved cession of land; but such cession would not be undertaken without the support of the people of Belize.

This view that an early settlement of the dispute cannot be achieved without some cession of land (even from the Moho River) is totally unacceptable. For there is a fundamental principle at stake which must be preserved at all costs: The principle being that the people of Belize must exercise the right of self-determination and must proceed to independence with territorial integrity and secure borders.

The Government of Barbados remains firmly committed to this principle.

We fully support the resolutions passed at successive meetings of the United Nations in which the right of the people of Belize to self-determination, independence and territorial integrity have been overwhelmingly approved. The Barbados Government will continue to assist in efforts to have this matter resolved speedily in the best interests of the government and people of Belize.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that honourable members of both sides of this house will give clear and unequivocal support to any measures in accordance with the principles of territorial integrity and safe and secure boundaries which will pave the way for another CARICOM member state to gain its full independence.

I may add, Mr. Speaker, that throughout these long and arduous negotiations we have been heartened by the fact that the premier and Government of Belize have conducted themselves in a manner which shows them fit to assume the mantle of independence. I wish I was in a position to say the same for Guatemala.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

FOREIGN MINISTER MAKES STATEMENT ON BELIZE

FL1117307 Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 5 Feb 78 pp 6, 17 FL

[Text] The following statement was made by the honourable minister of external affairs of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. John S. Donaldson, in the House of Representatives on Friday, 27 January 1978:

"Information reaching the Government of Trinidad and Tobago suggests that a settlement of the Belize/Guatemala dispute is being arranged in terms which may not meet the legitimate aspirations of the government and people of Belize for attaining their independence. Yesterday (January 26, 1978) the prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago received a cable from the premier of Belize informing him that land cession remained the focus of Britain's plan to reach a settlement with Guatemala and its intention to pursue this course despite the stand of the Belizean Government. The premier indicated his determination not to yield on the issue of cession of territory and he appealed to the prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago to continue to give support to the principle of the territorial integrity of Belize.

"The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has always given unequivocal support to the people of Belize in the assertion of their right to self-determination and it has made its position clear in its interventions in the debate of the United Nations and other international forums.

"At the Inter-American Economic and Social Council (IAECOSOC) meeting of OAS member states which was held in Caracas in January 1970 and which was chaired by the honourable prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago, the Trinidad and Tobago delegation introduced into discussion the question of support for the position of the Government of Belize. These efforts of Trinidad and Tobago were thwarted however on procedural grounds.

"The prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago at the sixteenth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America held in Port-of-Spain in May 1975 took note of the potentially volatile situation in Belize and exhorted the Latin American community, already short of talent and resources, not to waste their energies on discord and dissention. The honourable prime minister urged that efforts be continued to reconcile the accomodation of Belize with the satisfaction of historical claims.

"At the meeting of the heads of government of the expanded Caribbean community held in St. Kitts/Nevis/Anguilla from 8-10 December 1975, the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago emphasised its continuing support for self-determination for the people of Belize. A resolution was adopted whereby the United Nations was requested to uphold and protect the rights of the people of Belize against any wanton and capricious aggression, military or otherwise, and to take such steps of a multi-national character as would well provide a guarantee of Belize's security recognized with the United Nations system in order to promote the peace and security of the region and the welfare of the citizens of Belize.

"At the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in London from 8-15 June 1977 Trinidad and Tobago reaffirmed its full support for the aspirations of the Belizean people for early independence. The heads of government in reviewing the question of Belize acknowledged that there could be no settlement of the dispute without the full consent of the government and people of Belize, and pledged their co-operation in securing such a settlement.

"At the 31st session of the United Nations General Assembly the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago declared its support for the rights of people in non-self-governing territories to self-determination as set forth in the United Nations Charter and enshrined in the declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples contained in Resolution 1514 (XV) of 14th December 1960.

"Further to this, at the 32nd session the minister of external affairs in a statement to the General Assembly said: 'Trinidad and Tobago has always supported the rights of all people still under colonial rule to self-determination and my delegation wishes to express once more a solidarity with the people of Belize whose legitimate right to freedom, independence and territorial integrity have too long been frustrated. It is for those members of the U.N. family who have the facilities, to provide credible guarantees to the people of Belize for the enjoyment of that right.'

"At the seventh regular session of the O.A.S. General Assembly which took place in Grenada in June 1977, Trinidad and Tobago reasserted the principle of self-determination for Belize as a member of the Caribbean community. This initiative by Trinidad and Tobago was supported by Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Panama and Surinam.

"The Government of Trinidad and Tobago is particularly disturbed that undue pressure is being brought to bear on Belize and new tensions are being introduced into the situation by the irresponsible sale of arms.

"The Government of Trinidad and Tobago reiterates the view that any settlement of the Belize/Guatemala dispute must be agreed to by the government and people of Belize and such a settlement must provide credible guarantees for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of an independent Belize."

The text of this statement has been sent to the secretary-general of the United Nations, the Organization of American States, the Commonwealth Secretariat, and the acting secretary-general of CARICOM.

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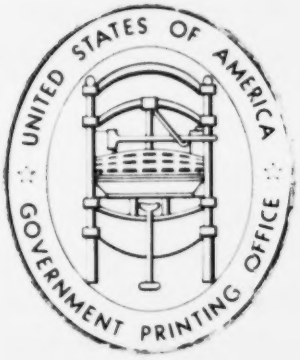

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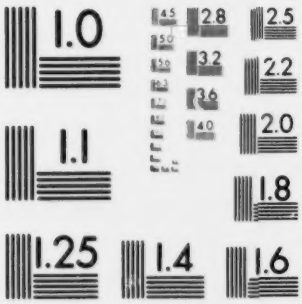

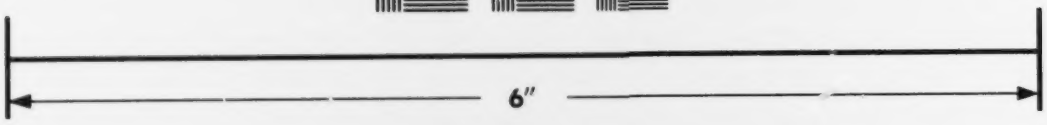

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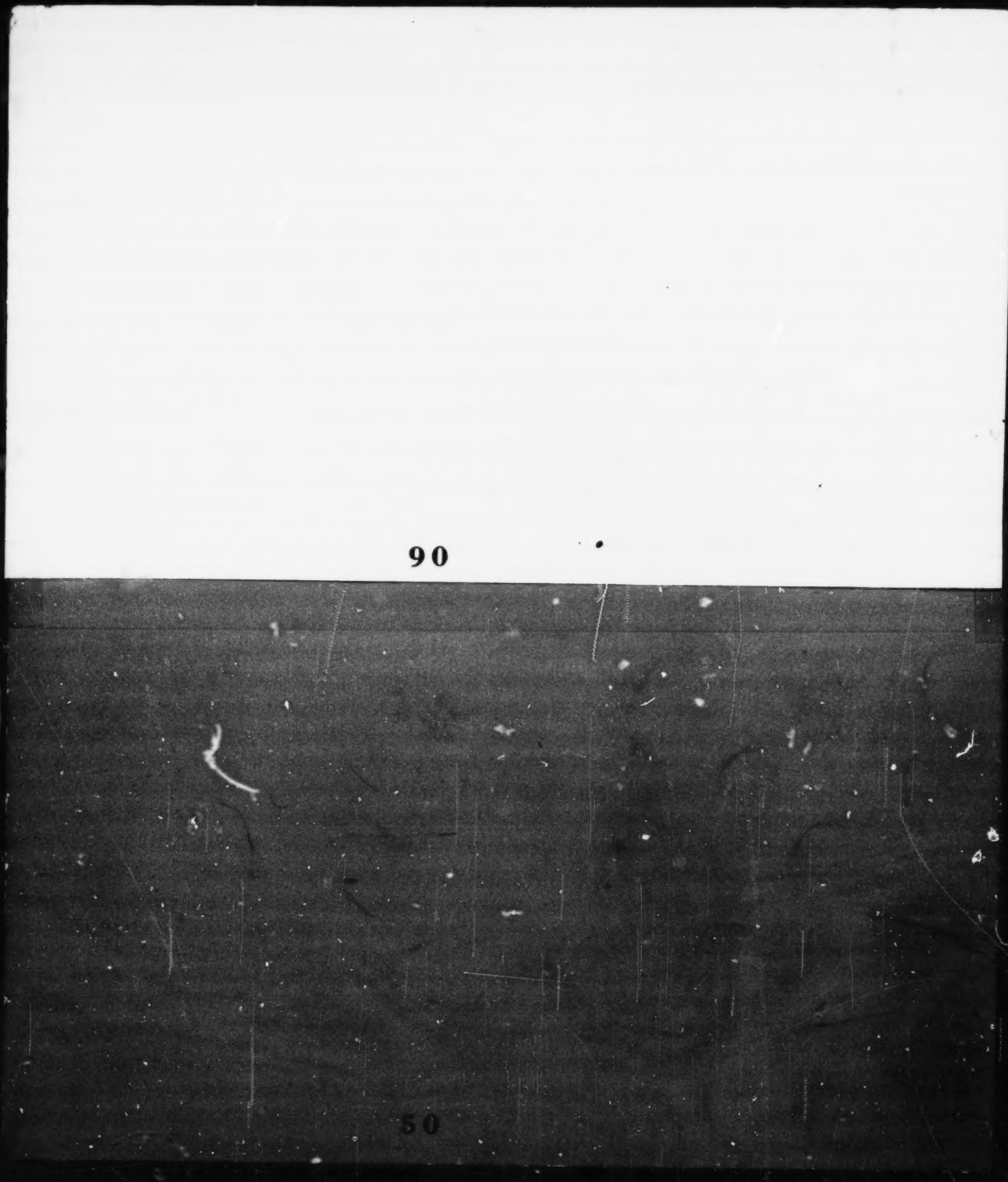
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